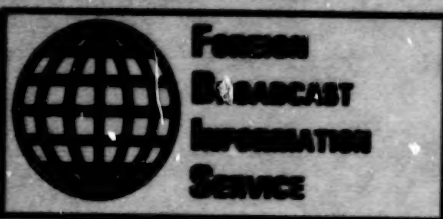


JPRS-SEA-88-049
14 DECEMBER 1988



JPRS Report

East Asia

Southeast Asia

East Asia Southeast Asia

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Malaysian Minister Discusses Need for Workers
42130020d Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian
24 Oct 88 p 9

[Excerpts] Malaysia continues to need Indonesian workers due to continued development of the plantation sector of the economy, which continues to require a large work force. Therefore, foreign workers will be given the same protections as domestic workers.

The Malaysian minister of manpower Datuk Lee Kim Sai made this statement on arriving at Sukarno-Hatta Airport yesterday afternoon, where he was met by Minister of Manpower Cosmas Batubara. [passage omitted]

Lee said that workers from the Philippines and Thailand as well as from Indonesia are working on plantations in Malaysia.

He went on to say that Malaysian plantations are still short of workers. He is going to discuss this matter, as well as the problem of "illegal" Indonesian workers in Malaysia, with Cosmas Batubara.

In response to a question about "illegal" workers, Lee Kim Sai said that he did not know exactly how many there are in Malaysia. However, Malaysia is continuing to deal with such illegal entry into the country.

During this visit, Lee said, the Malaysian government will also discuss this matter with the Indonesian government in an effort to find a solution to the problem. It is hoped that a procedure for handling those workers can be arrived at by mutual agreement.

He emphasized that section 118 of Malaysia's labor laws, which imposes a prison term of 1 year or a fine of 5,000 Malaysian dollars on "illegal" workers, is not being enforced in a serious way, especially because Malaysia still needs men to work the plantations.

In response to a question, Lee said that Indonesian workers' productivity is basically satisfactory. This by itself will result in higher production.

Making It Easier for Indonesian Workers

At the same time, Cosmas Batubara said that Indonesia has made it much easier for Indonesians to work in Malaysia.

As an example, families who want to accompany the worker abroad are exempted from paying the tax, and obtaining a passport has also been made simpler.

Cosmas Batubara admitted that there are agents who encourage Indonesian workers to avoid the proper procedure.

"There are people, both on the Indonesian side and on the Malaysian side, who are illegally involved in sending workers to Malaysia. [passage omitted]

Envoy Urges Golkar To Avoid Mexican Party's Experience

42130020f Jakarta SUARA PEMBANGUNAN in Indonesian
27 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] The triple success in applying GOLKAR's [Functional Groups Party] general program must aspire even higher, especially in the direction of solving real human problems. "By paying greater attention to problems such as democracy, justice and a more even distribution of the wealth, we hope that GOLKAR will avoid the experience of Mexico's Partido Revolucioner Institucional (PRI)." David Napitupulu, Indonesia's ambassador to Mexico, made this statement in response to questions from a PEMBANGUNAN reporter in Jakarta yesterday afternoon.

This GOLKAR figure, who has been ambassador to Mexico since last year, said that the PRI and GOLKAR came into being in similar ways.

The PRI was formed by a general (an ex-president) in 1929. The party then experienced a rapid growth so that it was the only winner in every presidential and senatorial election after that. It won on the average 70 percent of the vote in the elections which are held every 6 years.

However, in the 1988 election the PRI had a setback even though it still was able to win the presidency and the majority of seats in the senate. In the presidential election the PRI only got 50.3 percent of the votes and there was an increase in the number of votes for the opposition.

Quoting Mexico's president Carlos Salinas, David said that one of the reasons for the drop in votes for the PRI was that the PRI had not been fighting for what the Mexican people wanted: democracy, justice and a more even distribution of the wealth. "However, the president of Mexico stated his conviction that the number of votes for his party would increase again in the future after it recognized its weaknesses, meaning that the PRI would be able to channel the people's aspirations towards democracy, justice and a more even distribution of the wealth."

SGS Approves Proposed Formation of Appeal Board

42130020g Jakarta PELITA in Indonesian 29 Oct 88 p1

[Text] The SGS (Societe Generale de Surveillance, S.A.) has no objections to the formation of an appeal board to help settle cases of disagreements between the SGS and Indonesian importers.

Daniel A. Gauchat, head of SGS's Relations Office in Jakarta, made this statement to reporters yesterday. He said that importers would be able to direct their complaints about losses resulting from the SGS to this third party. He himself had already heard about the possibility of being asked to be part of that third party.

However, said Daniel, it is not an appeal board that will be formed but rather a committee to handle the appeals procedure. The committee will consist of members of the Foreign Trade Directorate General and of the SGS. "This committee will play its role if we ourselves cannot solve disagreements between us and the importers," said Daniel, responding to questions about his organization's role in preshipping inspection of imported goods, in cases of smuggling and about the need for forming an appeal board, all of which have been widely reported in the press recently.

Answering a PELITA reporter, Suparto, imports director of the ministry of trade, who took part in that press conference, said the same thing as Daniel. "There will be no appeal board, because it is not considered necessary," he said quoting Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for the economy, finance and industry, as reported in the press some time ago.

The appeal committee will only handle disagreements about the value of imported goods determined by the SGS. However, importers are urged not to take their problems to the appeal committee before good-faith attempts are made to solve the problem with the SGS.

Minister Urges Diet Diversification, Reduced Rice Consumption
42130020a Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
12 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] In order to maintain self-sufficiency in food production there must be a reduction in rice consumption. The food diversification program will continue to be encouraged. As much as possible, the increase in consumption will be pushed below the rate of increase in the population.

Minister of Agriculture Engr Wardoyo made this statement. It was read by Dr Engr Muin Pabinru, director general of Food Crops Agriculture, at the Panel Discussion on Maintaining Self-Sufficiency in Food Production, which was held at the Food Crops Research Building in Bogor yesterday.

The minister said that if national rice consumption can be held to current levels, i.e. about 135 kg per person per year, demand for rice will increase at the same rate as the population increase, about 2 percent a year.

However, if there is less rice consumption because of a diversification in what Indonesians eat, demand for rice will increase at less than 2 percent a year. "It is clear that diversification plays a big role in maintaining self-sufficiency in food production," he said.

The Pattern of Rice Consumption

At several points in his statement Wardoyo expressed the opinion that "rice is not the only source of carbohydrates." Other sources of carbohydrates must continue to be developed so as to avoid total dependency on rice as the source of carbohydrates.

He admitted that demand for rice has continued to increase over time. This has been in line with increases in population and in income. For some Indonesians, a rise in income leads to a desire for higher social status, meaning increased rice consumption.

Because of improved communications, national consumption patterns have tended to become more uniform, i.e. towards the consumption of rice. "This tendency will continue," the minister added.

From the nutritional point of view rice consumption has certain advantages since rice contains more protein than corn or cassava. Dependency on rice has certain problems which are related to limits on human resources and limitations on foreign exchange if rice has to be imported in large quantities.

Sugar Cane Plantations To Be Shifted to Dry Land
42130020e Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian
26 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] Sugar cane cultivation will gradually be shifted from wet fields to dry land. In order to maintain self-sufficiency in food production, especially for rice, from now on emphasis will be placed on planting artificially-irrigated wet fields with rice. Up to now wet fields have formed the backbone of sugar cane production.

Dr A. T. Birowo, secretary of the DGI [Indonesian Sugar Council], made this statement at a press conference held at his office yesterday.

Birowo said that it is 25 to 30 percent more profitable for farmers to plant rice and secondary crops rather than sugar cane on artificially irrigated wet fields. On the other hand, it is 25 percent more profitable for farmers to plant sugar cane rather than other commodities on dry fields.

The government has purposely set the price of rice higher than the price of sugar cane so that farmers will shift from sugar cane to rice production. Maintenance of self-sufficiency in food has been given the highest priority for agricultural development at the present time. "Rice is the number one commodity," he said.

Dry Fields

The DGI secretary also said that since the government has a policy of reducing sugar cane plantings on wet fields, there will be a greater supply of sugar cane from dry fields for sugar factories.

In the upcoming Fifth 5-Year Development Plan, as much sugar cane as possible will be planted on dry fields and as little as possible will be planted on wet fields. At some point in the future all sugar cane plantings will be on dry fields and none on wet fields.

In the first stage, dry fields on Java, including critical land to be rehabilitated, will be used for developing sugar cane plantings. Sugar cane can prevent erosion 15 times more than cassava and five times more than rice.

Dry fields which are primarily in the mountains can also be used for planting sugar cane. Even though productivity is relatively low, dry field acreage in Java is rather high and can fulfill sugar factories' needs for the next 25 years.

A Serious Challenge

Birowo admitted that shifting sugar cane plantations from wet to dry fields presents a serious challenge. It must be balanced off by expected increases in production. Increased productivity on dry fields depends on the peasants' socioeconomic situation as well as on technology transfer.

People who work dry fields, especially those in critical areas, are mostly poor peasants. They must be dealt with when sugar cane plantations are shifted to dry fields. The social infrastructure must first be built up by training groups of peasants and by stabilizing the KUDs (Village Unit Cooperatives).

Birowo also admitted that not much is known about cultivating sugar cane on dry fields and that a high-yield variety of sugar cane must still be found. Indonesia must learn from Taiwan, Australia, India and Argentina, which have been using dry fields for growing sugar cane.

Since Dutch times Indonesia has for centuries used the Reynoso system for planting sugar cane on artificially-irrigated wet fields. The result has been that Indonesia does not have the technical or the cultural knowledge for growing sugar cane on dry fields.

Outside of Java

Birowo said that in the long run sugar cane planting will be more and more outside of Java. A lot of sugar cane

At the present time the sugar industry is being developed more and more outside of Java in an effort to increase national sugar production.

Official Rules Out Rice Imports This Year

42130020b Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian
12 Oct 88 p 3

[Excerpt] Bustanil Arifin, minister of cooperatives and head of BULOG [Logistical Bureau], said that Indonesia will not import rice in 1988. This has been made possible by BULOG's large stocks of rice, now 1.2 million tons, and because it is believed that there has been a 3 to 4 percent increase in rice production this year.

"Even though some of our rice comes from abroad, this is not imported rice but rather rice that other countries are using for paying their rice-debts," he said at a press conference opening up World Food Day VIII 1988, at the central office of the department of information in Jakarta yesterday. Also present and making statements on this occasion were Engr Wardoyo, minister of agriculture and Engr Akbar Tanjung, state minister of youth and sports.

Minister Bustanil said that BULOG would like to have 5 million tons of rice stockpiled. However, the fact is that such large stocks cost a lot of money for warehouses, interest paid to banks, etc. He personally would be happier if rice stocks were not too high.

As head of BULOG, Bustanil thinks that Indonesia does not have to worry about having to import rice. Last year's 4 percent increase in rice production is higher than the 2.1 percent increase in the population.

He added that BULOG is happy with this 4 percent increase in rice production. In that way it will be easier for BULOG to buy the rice needed to maintain its stockpiles. However, Bustanil affirmed that no matter how much rice production increases, the farmer has no obligation to sell his rice to BULOG. The farmer is free to sell his rice to anyone who offers a higher price, but if the offer is below the base price, the farmer is better off selling to BULOG.

The minister said that there are several countries, including the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, which still owe rice to Indonesia. These countries, Bustanil said, have imported rice from Indonesia because they export the high-quality rice which they produce.

Engr Wardoyo, minister of agriculture, revealed that 1987 rice production reached 21.3 million tons, only a 0.88 percent increase over 1986 production. Various steps have been taken, including the Super Special Inten-

The minister said that next year agricultural development will be based not only on intensification but also on diversification and extensification. "All of this will require support from cooperatives and the availability of the means of agricultural production," he said. [passage omitted]

Education Minister Explains Academic Freedom
42130020c Jakarta SUARA KARYA in
Indonesian 14 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Not all conferences held on campus have any connection with academic freedom. Only scholarly discussions can be held on campus.

Fuad Hassan, minister of education and culture, made this statement about the ban on a conference about the KSOB [Prize for Sports Contribution Coupon] [a kind of football lottery], which was to be held by students at Diponegoro University in Semarang on Monday [10 October].

The student-initiated conference was not allowed because they did not receive a permit from the Central Java provincial police. Invited guests had already filled

the hall where the conference was to take place. The Central Java police believed that the organizers' request for a permit was not in order.

The organizers thought that the conference to discuss the social problems caused by the KSOB was part of the scholarly activities connected with the university's 32nd anniversary. The results of the conference were to be sent to the Social Minister as the university's contribution to thinking about the KSOB.

Fuad made these statements after meeting with President Suharto in the Bina Graha [president's residence] yesterday. He went on to say that no report had to be made beforehand about conferences held on campus as long as the material to be discussed was limited to scholarly matters. He said that conferences are the internal affair of the university.

He gave the following example: "For example, I want to hold a conference on horses. If the anatomy of horses is being investigated, that is a scholarly activity."

Fuad Hassan warned that the notion of academic freedom should not be made fuzzy, either on purpose or not on purpose. "Hey, come on! How can the KSOB have any connection with scholarly activities?" he said.

Envoy to Thailand Views Relations, Sisavat Role
42070015a Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai
24 Sep-4 Oct 88 pp 26, 27

[Interview with Mr Khamphan Simalavong, the Lao ambassador to Thailand; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] In your view, is the policy of the Chatchai administration different from that of the previous administration, particularly concerning the Indochina problem?

[Answer] Laos feels that Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's idea of turning the battlefield into a trade field, that is, expanding economic and trade activities with each other, is an excellent idea. This is in accord with the direction of the Southeast Asian Central Committee. This is the way of peace and better relations. We must solve the problems by negotiating instead of using weapons. The Soviet Union and the United States negotiated for 6-7 years before finally reaching an agreement. Laos and Thailand must solve their problems peacefully. There are favorable factors. Our two countries can understand each other and live together peacefully. We can cooperate on various economic, political, and social matters different from the old system.

Now that the new Thai administration has announced this new idea, we will try to follow what is actually done. Action is the decisive factor. If what is actually done is in accord with what Thailand's new leaders have said, Laos will accept this. If these concrete actions produce results, that will help promote better relations between our two countries.

[Question] What is Gen Sisavat Keobounphan's purpose in visiting Thailand?

[Answer] By custom, as neighboring countries, our military and political leaders, who are leaders on other fronts, too, should visit each other and exchange ideas with each other for the benefit of both countries. This is natural. We received a written invitation from Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut in the name of the Royal Thai Army. Gen Sisavat and his party will make an official visit to Thailand as guests of the Thai army. On the two previous visits, they just met at the airport and then returned. The second time, they came for the cremation of Mom Aphinop. That was not an official visit. There must be an official visit. Gen Sisavat is making this visit at the invitation of Gen Chawalit. Both sides must discuss the time. The time hasn't been set yet. But it should be in the near future. The main purpose of the trip is to improve relations between our two militaries so that border clashes can be avoided. We want peace along our 1,700 km border so that people can travel back and forth across the border. We want to avoid disputes. That would benefit both countries. This visit could promote cooperation on other fronts such as the economic and trade fronts. But the main purpose is to restore peace along the border and prevent armed clashes. On behalf

of the Lao military, Gen Sisavat will invite Gen Chawalit to visit Laos. That visit will benefit both countries. Let's bring about peace first. Laos might build a new society.

[Question] There are still problems along the Thai-Lao border. That is, there is the problem of the three strategic villages, and there is the problem at Ban Rom Klao. Has any progress been made in solving these problems?

[Answer] Laos will act in accord with the 1979 joint communique and the ceasefire agreement reached by the military representatives of our two countries. Following the bilateral negotiations in Bangkok and Vientiane on two separate occasions, we proposed holding a third round of negotiations, but the Thai government was then busy making preparations for the coming election and asked to postpone the negotiations until after the election and the formation of a new government. Two weeks ago, the Lao government sent a memorandum to the Thai ambassador in Vientiane proposing that we revive the talks on our basic problems. The newspapers reported that the Thai minister of foreign affairs had expressed a desire to hold talks. That is good. Laos feels that the sooner this happens, the better. We want to solve the basic problems first before tackling the other problems.

Solving the basic problems first will make it easier to solve the other problems such as the trade and economic problems. The Lao government is ready to meet at any time and place. Each side has its own interests. The two sides are equal, and they are sincere toward each other. I think that the two sides can understand each other and improve relations. If Laos and Thailand can reach an agreement, cooperate with each other, and understand each other, that will set a good example for other countries in this region.

Take the Ban Rom Klao border problem and the matter of the three villages, for example. These are within the scope of things as just mentioned, if our two countries can reach an agreement. First of all, we must avoid using weapons. We must prevent armed clashes. We must negotiate. If not today, then tomorrow. If not this month, then next month. Even if it takes time, we can do this.

Official Discusses Trade Plans With Thai Envoy
42070027 Bangkok NAEON in Thai
7 Oct 88 pp 9, 12

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On 6 October, the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, held a seminar on Thai-Lao relations. Those attending the seminar included the Lao ambassador to Thailand, a representative of the Lao government, the rector of Thammasat University, scholars, and other interested people.

Mr Khamphan Simmalavong, the Lao ambassador to Thailand, talked about Laos' investment law. He said that private-sector investment is divided into three

types. One is direct trade. This involves mostly consumer goods such as building materials. There is also investment trade stemming from approaches by the Lao government. Finally, foreigners are allowed to invest based on contracts. This can be joint investment projects between the government and the private sector or between state enterprises and the private sector. Or foreigners can invest alone. The investor must take full responsibility and act in accord with Laos' investment law, particularly concerning taxes.

Laos guarantees and protects the investments of foreigners based on bilateral agreements. That is, Laos will not seize plants or companies within the time periods stipulated. It collects taxes at a fair rate. The owners of the business can remit their after-tax profits to their home country. Protection is given to every employee and official who comes to work here.

The thing that has attracted foreign investors to Laos is that Laos has many cheap raw materials, and labor costs are low. The government provides full support. Those investing in Laos for the first time must invest a minimum of 30 percent of the full value of the project.

If Thailand and Laos can solve their border problems, it is believed that trade between the two countries will increase, because the two countries are fraternal countries.

Mr Ku Chansena, the head of the Planning Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Cooperatives, Laos, said that Laos is in great need of agricultural technology, because approximately 90 percent of the land, or approximately 4 million rai, is agricultural land. But agricultural exports account for only 30 percent of total exports. This is a very low percentage. About 46 percent of the area is forest land (as published).

Laos lacks production technology. But the government does not have a policy on selling raw materials at low prices. These materials are all consumed domestically or exported.

The three main agricultural crops for which Laos has been able to increase yields since the change of administration 12 years ago are tobacco, coffee, and rice. But the increase in yields has not kept pace with that in Thailand.

As for animal husbandry, Laos raises mostly cattle and water buffalo. There are about 2 million head in the country. The government's policy is to promote cooperative animal husbandry.

As for crops, Laos needs Thai varieties of rice such as Kk-10 and Kk-4 rice and Suwan 1 corn. Lao barter with Thai in the northeast, trading cattle, water buffalo, and catfish for Thai goods.

Japan Considering Soft Loan to Country
42130018D Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in
Malay 8 Oct 88 p 7

[Text] Tokyo, 7 October—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita reported to his counterpart in Malaysia, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today that Japan was considering offering a new loan to Malaysia at a low rate of interest to aid in reducing Malaysia's debt, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir, who arrived here last night to pay a 3-day unofficial visit, met with Mr Takeshita at the Diet (Parliament) this morning.

He informed Mr Takeshita that Malaysia's economy showed encouraging growth but that national per capita income, which earlier was over \$2,000 had fallen to \$1,600 because of the drop in the value of the ringgit [Malaysian dollar].

Consideration Desired

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir wanted special consideration to be given to the repayment schedule for yen loans which Malaysia received from Japan.

The prime minister said it would be difficult for Malaysia to carry out new projects if the terms of those loans were not relaxed.

Mr Takeshita said he understood that the repayment of old loans perhaps created problems, but his government was considering offering a new loan to Malaysia at a low rate of interest, the official said.

Fund Welcomed

He added that Japan supported the policy of "Looking to the East" which was introduced by Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir and was pleased that progress had been made in accepting students from Asia.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir welcomed Japan's positive attitude toward establishing the ASEAN-Japan Development Fund which Mr Takeshita promised to organize at the ASEAN summit conference held in Manila last December.

The prime minister said discussions had been held on the implementation of that fund, and the projects awaited financing.

The official also said that as of last year, Japan had accepted 2,100 students and trainees from Malaysia.

Suspension of Three Judges Lifted
42130018C Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay
7 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thursday [6 October]—Yang di-Pertuan Agong commanded that the suspension of three of the five Supreme Court justices, which was effective on 6 July, be withdrawn.

At the same time, Seri Paduka commanded that the other Supreme Court justices, Dr Wan Sulaiman Pawan Teh and Datuk George Edward Seah Kim Seng, be dismissed as of tomorrow in accordance with Item 125 (3) of the Malaysian Constitution.

However, Seri Paduka commanded that both of these justices be paid their rightful pensions.

When this was announced today, National Attorney Dr Abu Talib Othman said Seri Paduka also approved the abrogation of the suspensions of the three other justices of the Supreme Court, Dr Haji Mohd. Azmi Datuk Haji Kamaruddin, Dr Eusoffe Abdolcar, and Dr Wan Hamzah Haji Mohd. Salleh.

Seri Paduka also commanded that the three justices return to duty effective immediately.

The five justices were suspended from duty on 6 July because they held an extraordinary Supreme Court session on the request of former National Chief Justice Tun Salleh Abas without obtaining permission from the National Acting Chief Justice, Dr Abdul Hamid Omar.

(On that day, they issued an order preventing the then tribunal from investigating the allegations made against Tun Salleh, submitting their report to Seri Paduka.)

Dr Abu Talib said Seri Paduka accepted the report of the tribunal that investigated the allegations made against the five justices on 26 September. The tribunal's report was respectfully submitted to Seri Paduka by Dr Abdul Hamid Omar, National Acting Chief Justice.

Dr Abu Talib said he received the directive on Yang di-Pertuan Agong's decision 2 days ago.

"Based on the tribunal's report and the recommendation of the majority of its members, Seri Paduka commanded that the two justices be dismissed," he said.

The tribunal was chaired by Supreme Court Justice Datuk Edgar Joseph, Jr. Its members were Supreme Court Justice Datuk Haji Mohd. Yusof Chin and Judge Datuk Lamin Haji Mohd. Yunus, Justice of the Singapore Supreme Court Judge P. Coomaraswamy, and Justice of the Sri Lanka Supreme Court Mark Damian Hugh Fernando.

The tribunal began its investigation on 1 September and finished on 16 September.

The five justices were represented by 11 attorneys—Dr Wan Suleiman (by three attorneys), Datuk George Seah, Dr Haji Mohd. Azmi and Dr Wan Hamzah (each by two attorneys), and Dr Enuffe was his own lawyer along with another attorney.

Musa Hitam Severs Ties With Barisan Nasional
42130018B Kuala Lumpur PERITA HARIAN in Malay
3 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] Kota Tinggi, Sunday [2 October]—Datuk Musa Hitam, former deputy prime minister, today announced officially that he was leaving the Barisan Nasional (BN) [National Front] and will become an independent representative of the people.

In this connection, he asked Dr Mohd. Zahir Ismail, the speaker of the House of Representatives, to change his seat in the House.

Datuk Musa, who also is a minister of the Kota Tinggi Parliament said he made this decision after seeing the political developments and disorder of the Malays now.

"My position as a member of the House of Representatives, representing the Barisan Nasional, chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, did not allow me to provide any justification of my position or to defend myself.

"Therefore, I have no choice but to sever relations with members of the BN and become an independent," he said in a meeting with FELDA [Federal Land Development Authority] pioneers of Air Tawar Limas near here today.

Questioned by reporters after that meeting, Datuk Musa said he would send a letter to the speaker tomorrow requesting that his seat be changed.

Datuk Musa, however, will not leave his seat in the Kota Tinggi Parliament open to a new election.

He said, "I have not yet decided (to do this). If I followed the current temper, I should also resign (to become a people's representative) and run again.

"I can say that all those who call themselves independents want to do this."

Datuk Musa was reluctant to say whether he would do this because he said this was their strategy.

"At this time, we feel it best to hold by-elections, one by one," he said.

He repeated that he would resign at an appropriate time and when necessary to face the people.

Datuk Musa also said he would continue, along with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and his group, to try to legalize the 1946 UMNO [United Malays National Organization].

Agreement on Tornado Purchase Reported
42130018A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in
Malay 29 Sep 88 p 1

[Article by Aziz Ishak]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 28 September—Malaysia will form the most modern fighter aircraft squadron with IDS (interdictor strike) Tornado aircraft to equip the Malaysian Royal Air Force (TUDM) with a strong as well as sophisticated air defense system.

Lieutenant General Datuk Sri Mohd. Ngah Said, Air Force commander, explained that Malaysia has agreed to buy the aircraft from Britain. This aircraft will be fully deployed by the TUDM in 2 ½ to 3 years time.

"The TUDM has formed a unit to look for and acquire officers and other personnel for that squadron. They will undergo special training in the operation of the Tornado aircraft," he said when visiting the Kiarra TUDM base in Puchong near here this morning.

Lt Gen Datuk Sri Mohd. Ngah gave this information when asked to comment on the memorandum of understanding which was signed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister, last night, which permits Malaysia to buy \$4.4 billion [Malaysian dollars] worth of modern defense equipment.

He said no decision had yet been made on a base for this squadron. With the formation of this new squadron, the TUDM will have 5 fighter aircraft squadrons, 4 of which employ the F-SE and the Skyhawk fighter aircraft.

According to the Air Force commander, it will take between 2 ½ and 3 years to introduce these aircraft, depending on separate negotiations under the memorandum of understanding.

Lt Gen Datuk Sri Mohd. Ngah said no decision had yet been made on the total number of aircraft for this squadron, but a fighter squadron usually consists of 16 to 18 aircraft.

He added that the TUDM selected this aircraft although it had several other choices such as the U.S.-made F-16 fighter aircraft and the French-produced Mirage 2000.

The Tornado purchase is part of the TUDM's modernization program which also will include the purchase of transport aircraft and helicopters from other sources.

According to the memorandum of understanding, equipment to be purchased includes fighter jets, a guided missile system, and submarines.

The aircraft will be paid for in part with oil and other commodities within 10 years.

With this purchase, Malaysia will be the first country in Southeast Asia and the fifth in the world to own these aircraft after Britain, Saudi Arabia, West Germany, and Oman.

The Tornado combat aircraft is a long-distance combat aircraft made by Fasanavia [Panavia], a consortium of three countries, Britain (British Aerospace), West Germany (Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blöhm), and Italy (Aeritalia).

The 4 Tornado F-3 fighter aircraft, a version of the ADV (air defense variant) air defense system of the British Royal Air Force (RAF), participated in the Five-Nation Defense Arrangement military exercise held in Malaysia and Singapore.

This announcement set aside any speculation that Malaysia might purchase the U.S.-made F-16 fighter aircraft following agreement with the Pentagon to sell this aircraft to Malaysia.

Thailand was the first ASEAN country to have the F-16 and Singapore as well as Indonesia have also employed the same aircraft to upgrade their countries' air defense.

The Tornado is the latest fighter aircraft and can carry several types of rockets and missiles for air-surface and air-to-air combat.

TUDM sources report that the purchase of these aircraft will open a new era for strengthening the Malaysian Air

Force which some observers, including Lt Gen Dato Sri Mohd. Ngah himself, say has a /maszani/ [in italics] concept.

They say this because the F-3E and Skyhawk fighters reportedly will be no match for the new generation of fighter aircraft such as the Tornado's, the F-16's, the Mirage 2000's and the MiG 29's (Soviet) beginning in 1995.

From the aspect of physical characteristics, the Tornado has a maximum speed of Mach 2.1, a wing span of 13.9 meters, wing sweep of 13.9 meters [as published], length of 16.7 meters, and it is powered by two Turbo-Union RB 199 turbofan engines.

This aircraft can also carry a cargo of 7.3 tons, is equipped with a modern avionics system, and automatic radar, and it can be used in all kinds of weather conditions.

This aircraft also reportedly is easily "maintained" and part replacement is easy; in addition, it has the most complete and modern weaponry system.

Meanwhile, a BERNAMA correspondent reported from London it is understood that following the memorandum of understanding, which was signed by Prime Minister Dato Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his counterpart, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, news Malaysia would like to buy include 12 Tornado jets, a radar control system, 30 155-mm towed guns, and surface-to-air missiles from the British Aerospace Company (one of the four companies in the consortium for the Tornado project), Javelin missiles, and small 105-mm guns, and long-term training for Malaysian military personnel.

Two Martello, three-dimensional air defense radars will be supplied by the Marconi radar system company.

If this agreement holds firm, a new memorandum of understanding between Malaysia and Britain will make Britain the primary supplier of equipment to the Malaysian Royal Air Force (TUDM).

Columnist Cites Attacks on Aquino, Defends President

43000036b Manila MR. & MS. in English
25 Oct 88 pp 4, 5

["The Wayfarer" column by A. O. Flores: "How True, How True!"]

[Text] Ninoy Aquino is said to have said that whoever succeeds Marcos will have a most difficult, if not impossible, time.

What's fascinating about Ninoy's prediction is not so much as that it is becoming true as that it is becoming true to his own wife (and widow).

Now what are some of those things that are making it most difficult for the incumbent President? To begin with, there's that hefty \$26 billion she inherited from her predecessor. Not only has it grown to \$29 billion, it is eating up almost half of the nation's pie.

Hardly needing mention are the leaders of the communist insurgency who want in and the leaders of the Muslim rebellion who want out. Add to this nagging twin threat the headache that is Honasan and his putsch pals. Throw in a handful of two of Marcosians and you have a man-size problem for a woman called Cory.

Not to be overlooked as possible contributors to the presidential woe are those who take advantage of their consanguine, affinitive or political connections with the national leadership. In media parlance, the grafters and corruptors.

Speaking of media, it is within its ranks that you find not a few who consider the president fair game for all their intents and purposes. They are the ones who at times make things impossible for her. Devil's advocate, you may call them. (Before the canonization of our very own Lorenzo Ruiz, the devil's advocate was called upon to do his usual job. If my memory of a Vatican report serves me right, the devil's advocate found no possible chink on Lorenzo's armor. At long, long, long last, a Pinoy is officially named a saint.)

Nobody is grooming Cory for sainthood. The very moral person that she is, she has her share of faults never the less. But certainly cowardice and weakness are not among them. Not long ago, one of the devil's advocates wrote in his column that at the height of the 28 August coup attempt the president "hid under her bed." Her reaction was as literal as the columnist's statement: she showed to media people that she could not have acted as charged because the bottom of the bed was all boarded up. When the offended party brought the matter to court, the frightened respondent could only make the impossible apology that his statement was but "a figure of

speech." (He could have been given the benefit of the doubt had he stopped there. But no, he had gone on to say that she was "the first Commander-in-Chief to do so.")

Cory a coward? Ironical, because barely 2 years before she was called that, the same columnist was all praise for the guts she showed in carrying on the fight that her husband had heroically died for. With such friends, Cory may very well say today, who needs enemies?

When the devil's advocates are not calling her chicken-hearted, they are chiding her for being weak. Recently, another columnist (this time a she) despaired of the alleged un-presidential act of shedding tears while pleading before a couple of senators for the postponement of the barangay elections. Television showed the chief executive laughing it off. It will take more than that, she said, to make me cry.

Between the columnist's word and the president's, I'd take the latter. (I can't forget what Doro Valencia, acknowledged dean of Philippine columnists, once said: "Anybody can write a column." I believe him. Just look at me.)

It's easy to be a columnist. It's not easy to be president.

Leftist Weekly Criticizes Aquino 'Surrendering' Powers to Ramos

43000036e Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English 9 Nov 88 p 19

[The "Vantage Point" column by Luis V. Teodoro]

[Text] At least one senator recently noticed that President Corazon Aquino was once more on the threshold of surrendering some of the powers of the presidency to the military. Senator Teofisto Quingona of the ruling coalition pointed out that Aquino's Executive Order 292—which transfers supervision and control over the Armed Forces on the Philippines and its chief of staff from the president to the secretary of national defense—was "unconstitutional" because it weakens the president's powers as commander-in-chief of the AFP.

Executive Order 292 is preceded by EO 264, which empowers the defense secretary to "cause the organization of the citizen armed force into geographical units... [and to implement] the reserve force development program of the Philippines."

It is under EO 264 that the citizens Armed Force Geographic Units (CAFGU) are being organized by the current defense secretary, retired General Fidel V. Ramos. The core of the CAFGU will be the members of the old Civilian Home Defense Forces, except that CAFGU, says the AFP, will be under direct military orders.

Various groups have been critical of CAFGU, saying that it is only the CHDF under a different name. The AFP, however, says that the difference is that reservists will form the overwhelming number of CAFGU members and that they will be under the command of local military commanders.

EO 264 and 292 make General Ramos both the *de jure* as well as the *de facto* commander-in-chief of the armed forces, since they put direction of the military and the chief of staff formally under his control.

General Ramos has in fact been the second most powerful official in the country ever since he assumed the post of defense minister, among others because he had a sufficiently large base of power within the AFP to begin with. This duplicates the situation in the early years of martial rule, when the then secretary of national defense—because of the abolition of Congress, the emasculation of the judiciary, and the plain and simple fact that the declaration of martial rule had made military power the principal source of the Marcos regime's viability—was the second most powerful official in the country.

It was in fact possible during that period, when Enrile and Marcos were still completely in agreement, and Enrile exercised a great degree of operational control over the armed forces (including the deployment of troops, the implementation of the Marcos decrees, the convening of military tribunals, etc.) for Enrile to have seized enough power to make himself at the least the equal of Marcos. Marcos, however, counter-balanced Enrile's power with the power of the General Fabian Ver faction. Ver he eventually made chief of staff with the delegated authority to reorganize the AFP and to deploy troops. The defense secretary then became largely an administrator of the defense establishment.

Marcos' efforts to retain as much power as he could and to enlarge upon those powers made for a very powerful presidency. Some commentators have argued that the dilution of those powers could have meant a less tyrannical regime, but that argument is mostly speculative and suffers from a major infirmity: it assumes that Marcos' putative and actual rivals—Juan Ponce Enrile, for example—were interested in democratizing martial law. Would a larger share of power by Enrile—or even a transfer of power from Marcos to Enrile, if Marcos had been shortsighted enough to permit Enrile to gain enough power to challenge his rule—have led to democratization?

To this question we have in fact the recent actions of those groups and factions identified with Enrile to go by, the most important of these being the RAM factions within the military. Intra-elite rivalry has historically not led to the enhancement of democracy. This suggests that,

if there is reason in President Aquino's apparent readiness to surrender her powers to the military, the argument that the dilution of presidential control over the military ought to lead to greater democratization is difficult to defend both in terms of experience as well as current reality.

An unspoken assumption in Guingona's warning that by abdicating certain powers the president may be hastening the return of strongman rule is that Aquino and Ramos have different perspectives. It is an assumption that to a limited extent is accurate, quite simply because Aquino was most a victim of the martial rule, which Ramos, as chief of the Philippine Constabulary and deputy chief of the AFP during the Marcos period, was a major enforcer.

From this standpoint, in fact, Aquino is virtually undermining the mandate of the EDSA revolt. She is turning over part of the powers of the presidency, which EDSA had expected her to use against authoritarianism (and by extension against militarism), to institutions and officials who were willing participants in the creation of the Marcos dictatorship. This process, in fact, began in 1987, primarily as a response to the threat of military coups, until police and military power, as has been observed by several commentators, became broad enough for the military and police to be a virtual fourth department of government.

President Aquino is in effect governing least, and not only in terms of control over the military. It occurs also in terms of her refusal to antagonize other sectors, which, though less powerful than the military, are capable of teaming up with various unfriendly forces to threaten her government. Among these sectors have been big businesses and the landed elite, to which she has handed over a labor policy as well as a land reform program unlikely to affect their interests. In the Third World, of course, governing least doesn't necessarily mean governing best—it in fact almost always means governing in the worst possible way, especially if it means abandoning the field to forces opposed to change and in favor of strongman rule.

Weekly Views Prospects for Ramos Presidential Run

43000036c Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English 26 Oct 88 pp 8, 9

[News analysis by Roberto Verzola]

[Text] The impending implementation on 4 November this year of Executive Order No 292, which grants broader powers to the secretary of national defense, is fueling further speculations on the political plans and future of Fidel V. Ramos, the current occupant of the post.

At the height of the February revolution in 1986, then General Fidel Ramos, Philippine Constabulary chief and Armed Forces of the Philippines deputy chief, was asked if he wanted to become president. He reportedly said, "I'll cross that bridge when I get there."

For a general known for talking straight, the answer was uncharacteristic. Perhaps, however, that reply indicated at the time only an incipient interest in a position held for 20 years by a dictator under whom he had served. Now somewhat tenuously held by the housewife who ousted the dictator, the presidency may now have become more interesting to Ramos, who has since then become AFP chief of staff and subsequently defense secretary.

Ramos is, in fact, in a near ideal situation to aspire for the presidency. He is now in exactly the same position as Ramon Magsaysay was when the latter was appointed defense secretary by President Elpidio Quirino in 1950.

Capitalizing on his popularity in the wake of the defeat of the Huk rebellion, Magsaysay went on to run successfully for president against his boss.

It is a simple formula for the presidency. It may have been the formula that Juan Ponce Enrile, defense minister during the Marcos regime and in the early months of the Aquino government, intended to use, but his ouster from the post obliterated his chances. The Magsaysay formula could be part of General Ramos' agenda for the next 3 years, if only because he can't possibly be unaware of the historical precedent.

All General Ramos has to do now is to defeat the current Communist-led insurgency, and he just might be—he is almost certain to be—the next president of the Philippines.

The catch in an otherwise tailor-made situation is that today's guerrillas have proven much tougher than the Huk of the Fifties. Despite all-out military efforts to destroy it, the New People's Army has essentially preserved its forces, and appears capable of regenerating itself, and even of expanding, through ambushes and raids to get arms, and through "revolutionary taxation" to raise funds.

General Ramos has a deadline for beating the NPA: before the end of Cory's term in 1992. That would be the perfect time to do so for one interested in the presidential elections that could be held in late 1992.

The military now indeed claims that the NPA will be defeated by the end of the decade. On the other hand, the NPA has on several occasions announced its target of achieving strategic stalemate by the early 1990s, when it expects to equal the AFP's armed strength.

It should be easy to see within 3 years which side shall have made good its boast. The year 1990 could be decisive.

On the other hand, General Ramos doesn't really have to defeat the insurgency in 3 years' time to be president. The military just has to make it appear as if it has beaten the NPA.

A string of defeats for the NPA, or a series of arrests of their leaders, or some such thing, can be used—as the AFP is using these now—to claim that the insurgency is beaten, or on the run. The problem can be reduced from being a question of actual political and military victory to simply a question of public relations, advertising and media hype.

Has the AFP broken the insurgency or not? The people's perception depends a lot on what the mass media tell them. If the military insists it has won, and the media dutifully report it—complete with body counts and surrender statistics—who can really say otherwise?

To look at the question from a different angle: Who will support Ramos if he is indeed interested in the presidency?

For one thing, the military will presumably support him. They could ask for no better person to take care of their interests, and to speak on their behalf.

Such diverse elements as the U.S. government, businessmen, the Catholic church hierarchy and other pressure groups which have traditionally influenced the choice of the country's chief executive can also be expected to look positively at the prospect.

For the United States, Ramos will be a most easy president to negotiate with, when the military bases agreement has to be finally renegotiated.

It is almost certain that the United States is now working out, through its contacts and agents in the Philippine government, a constitutional amendment to delete the anti-nuclear provision of the Philippine constitution. One can easily imagine to whom the American can comfortably propose such a step, and confidently expect an all-out government campaign for its approval.

By training and natural affinity, Ramos will find many of his views coincident with U.S. views. On such topics as the insurgency, foreign policy, the U.S. role in the Philippines, economic development, and other major issues, Ramos and the United States should have something in common.

Going over the list of presidential hopefuls this early—including the incumbent, should she be prevailed upon to run again—one might even say with some certainty that Ramos will be the Americans' clear choice for the next president of the Philippines.

The issue of peace and order is very close to businessmen's hearts. Businessmen have traditionally looked upon the military as a natural ally in their disputes with labor. When labor unions, unfettered by the fall of the dictatorship, demanded better living and working conditions through a rash of strikes, the businessmen went straight to Ramos to present their grievances.

Many churchmen would also see Ramos as "a stabilizing factor" who could lead the country out of the threat of a communist takeover.

Because he turned against Marcos in the twilight of the dictatorship, many will have forgotten—or forgiven—the fact that the former PC chief was, for almost 14 years, a pillar of Marcos' martial rule.

Taking into account Ramos' performance in the Aquino administration, it is probably that if indeed a desire for the presidency has grown within Ramos, then he must have also decided to do it in a constitutional manner—which, for him, can only be through the presidential elections scheduled in 1992, but which may be held earlier.

Ramos' break with Enrile, when the latter was perceived to be hatching a coup against Cory and his support of presidential authority throughout the Channel 7 and 28 August 1987, military mutinies, indicate a decision to go with constitutional processes rather than a coup or any other form of military action. Indeed, why support—or lead—a coup, when the road to the presidency is clear and open? To follow a colonel's lead obviously would not speak too well of a presidential aspirant.

Indeed, as long as the road to the presidency is clear, one can expect Ramos to stand squarely against coups d'etat and all other attempts to install a new ruler by force. And as long as this is the case, no coup against Cory will succeed.

There is, therefore, more than a grain of truth in Cory's observation that "General Ramos and I have many interests in common." One might say that Ramos has to help Cory finish her term, and then get selected as the ruling party's presidential candidate. In fact, one will probably lead to the other.

To be sure, many would oppose a move by Ramos to become the administration party's standard bearer, especially if they have a Cory reelection campaign on their agenda. One can surmise, however, that should the ruling party refuse to draft him, the opposition parties gladly would.

Two things can turn this scenario sour: the insurgency can grow in a few years to such proportions that the military would need more than a Goebbels to make it appear otherwise; or the General, like Minister Enrile before him, may not remain defense secretary long enough to play out a neo-Magsaysay role.

At this early stage though, all things seem to be working in Ramos' favor.

Columnist Criticizes Cebu Mayor's 'Naive' View of Communist Problem

42000041d Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English
28 Oct 88 pp 6, 24

[Opinion by Cerge M. Remonde: "Tommy Has Naive View of Rebel Problem"]

[Excerpt] Mayor Tommy Osmena has a rather naive view about the communist insurgency problem. Tommy, during the regional peace and order council meeting, insisted that the problem is of delivering services to the people. He insisted that the communist insurgency will die by itself if government officials will try hard to make people believe that the government is working for them. He said the Filipino has a very forgiving mentality. Even if you can not deliver it's okay, he said, for as long as people see you tried hard enough. Tommy should try building all the roads and bridges he can build in a communist controlled barangay. He shall see if the residents will abandon the CPP/NPA by that alone.

It was comforting to note, however, that Tommy's view of the communist insurgency problem is not shared by many of the local government officials in the conference. A vice governor from Samar categorically opposed his view and demanded for the immediate fielding of Cagpus in his area. Mayor Elsie San Juan of Toledo said that poverty is not a problem in her city but the communist insurgency is serious there because of the presence of a communist front organization in the labor sector. The vice mayor of Danao city shared the view that the insurgency is more than just a problem of poverty and delivery of government services.

What those who consider the communist insurgency as more of a problem of poverty and delivery of government services refused to see is the very essence of the insurgency itself. That there is a group of people who have formed themselves into a party guided by an ideology whose end is to overthrow the government and implement a communist political and economic system. What is dangerous with their kind of thinking is that it is the very line that those engaged in the so-called national democratic struggle want us to believe. The truth is where the breeding grounds of the communist insurgency is minimal, the communist will still create situation to spawn discontent and hatred against the government.

People like Tommy Osmena agree that government does not always have enough resources to solve the many pressing problems confronting our communities. It is definitely better to destroy than to build. That is the inherent advantage of the insurgents. It's like a canoe being paddled by two people towards opposing directions. One towards the shore, the other towards the open sea. The government, which is paddling the canoe

towards the shore of safety and progress, cannot blame only the currents that are flowing out into open sea. The current only abetted the drift of the canoe farther from the shore. conditions like poverty, injustice, graft and corruption are like the currents. They work to the advantage of the communist insurgents and make work of the government more difficult. However, the larger problem is that there is another party that is pulling the country towards the direction where it wants to lead us to. That problem must be recognized and squarely addressed.

We beg Tommy to reconsider his position. And that he would adopt what we propose to call as a combination of the left hand and the right hand approach. That is we find the communist, fight them, and finish them if necessary on one hand. On the other, we offer them the hand of peace, the opportunity to build new lives. That is the only language those who believe in force and violence like the communists will understand. If we feed them by our hands, the same hands will surely be bitten.

Cebu Columnist Welcomes CPP Participation in Barangay Elections
42000041d Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English
28 Oct 88 pp 6, 24

[Commentary by Godo M. Roperos: "If Rebels Take Part in Polls, Let Them"]

[Excerpt] We have always felt the communist elements in our countryside will find ways to field candidates for the barangay elections when it will be held, whether as scheduled next month, or later next year. After all it is to their advantage if they succeed in electing some of their regular members or mass base supporters to positions of leadership in villages the CPP already controls. What we wish to happen, though, is for the insurgents to surface legitimately, and make known their intention to participate in the political exercise.

It is true we supported the move to postpone the holding of elections for barangay officials to a later date, in order to give more time to the government to put its act together, and establish peace in as many barangays as possible and insure that inhabitants of these countryside communities could express their will in the ballot without fear of reprisal afterwards. We are afraid in areas where insurgents will be fielding their own candidates, the voters may not be able to express their will freely, for fear if the candidates supported by the NPAs lose, there will be reprisals against those who did not support them.

But we believe, it will be inevitable in a good number of barangays in the country, the CPP/NPA/NDF will be fielding candidates not necessarily because they want to join the country's political mainstream, but because they want to test the loyalty of voters in areas they perceive as under their influence. The net result here would be the

electorate will either turn en masse to vote for left leaning candidates, or they will not vote at all. In which case, while they will still be able to register their neutrality they probably will not be able to hide their identities, if someone would go out of his way to do a head count of voters.

Which is why, to our mind, if the communist elements in our barangays wish to participate in the elections, we should let them, provided they promise to abide by the laws governing the political exercise, and allow voters to exercise their freedom of choice without any threat of reprisal afterwards, if the CPP/NPA/NDF-supported candidates fail to win. This should be part of the ground rules imposed on all candidates running for positions in the barangay polls.

The barangay elections is going to be a very politically sensitive one, in the sense that it will allow political parties to establish an organizational base in the countryside, preparatory to the 1992 presidential and congressional elections, not to mention the election of local officials. It is true candidates in the elections are not supposed to have political parties, and politicians are not supposed to field and support candidates of their choice. But we are afraid this arrangement will be more honored in words, than in actual deeds.

Local political leaders, specially those who are presently in position, and have already affiliated or renewed their affiliation with national political parties, will not just sit down and let the barangay elections pass without insuring they have men running successfully for positions in the barangay polls. They would be remiss in their obligation to their party if they cannot establish an organizational foundation in each barangay of the town they are leaders of. Hence, under this situation, we are sure the Commission on Election can no more preserve the immunity of the elections from partisan politics, than it can insure the CPP/NPA/NDF will never be able to field candidates in any community in the countryside.

But no matter. Just so long as the purity of the elections is preserved as a democratic exercise, without violence and fraud, it would still be a worthy endeavour on the part of the Comelec and the government. What would make it bad is the situation in areas where elections may not be free because certain candidates are being supported by organized forces that do not countenance any free exercise of the will, and yet the same candidates still continue to make people believe they won in a free and clean elections. Such a situation will not only be a mockery of our democratic tradition, but also make a joke of our electoral processes. It is a situation we should not tolerate, for it would mean the slow decay of our democratic way of life.

Sure, to our mind, we should welcome the participation of CPP/NPA/NDF in the elections. They are, after all, as Filipino as any of us. But they should be decent and human enough to live by the rules of the elections our government has set for all of us to follow. Perhaps, if and when they are able to wrest control of our government

through elections in the future, that would be the time they may also set their own rules. Then the rest of us should also toe the line. Fair is fair. [Passage omitted]

Cuenco Warns KBL Warlords, Leaders in New LDP Party

42000041c Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English
27 Oct 88 p 4

[Article by Elias O. Baquero]

[Text] House Speaker Pro-tempore Antonio V. Cuenco yesterday said former leaders and "warlords" of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) who are now members of the Lakas ng Demokratiko Pilipino (LDP) are still answerable for whatever wrongdoings they've made during the Marcos regime.

Cuenco made the statement in an interview with SUN STAR DAILY before he left for Manila to carry on the tasks in the Congress since Speaker Ramon Mitra, Jr. reportedly left for the United States.

Cuenco said the reported injustices during the years of the deposed president are the minus factors of the "warlords" in the LDP.

Asked if alleged victims of these "warlords" could still get justice, Cuenco said the only remedy, if there is evidence against them, is to file charges in court.

They are not immune from suit for committing offenses in the past years even if they are already LDP members, he said.

On the other hand, Cuenco also said these warlords should follow party rules or else "I will move for their expulsion from the party if they will violate principles of the political group."

Cuenco also said he disagreed with accepting former warlords as members to the LDP. "But it is the decision of the majority," he said.

"What I hope," Cuenco said, "is that they should not continue what they have done (like) terrorizing the voters. If they do so, then we will be forced to kick them out from the party."

Cebu Congressmen Appointed LDP District Chairmen

42000041b Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English
24 Oct 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Sen John H. Osmeña, Lakas ng Pilipino (LDP) vice president, and Speaker Pro-tempore Antonio V. Cuenco yesterday agreed to name all Cebu congressmen LDP chairmen in their respective districts.

Both met at the Osmeña residence to organize the super political party in Cebu and the rest of the provinces in Central Visayas.

Rep Cuenco, LDP regional chairman, told SUN STAR DAILY the LDP congressmen in the provinces of Bohol, Siquijor and Negros Or will also act as party chairmen in their districts.

As chairmen of their districts, the Cebu congressmen are empowered to organize the party in the towns and barangay levels.

Sen Osmeña said appointing LDP congressmen district chairmen is in accordance with the policy of the party.

The party structure is designed to eliminate possible friction within the party which usually happens when there is only one chairman for the entire province, Osmeña indicated.

The decision reached by Osmeña and Cuenco yesterday will be relayed to Reps Antonio Bacalos (1st dist); Crisologo "Sol" Abines (2nd dist); Celestino Martinez Jr (4th dist); Ramonito Durano III (5th dist); and Vicente de la Serna (6th dist).

Congressmen Pablo Garcia and Raul V. del Mar attended the meeting.

Mayor Explains Stance on Communism, Other Issues

42000041f Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English
29 Oct 88 pp 6, 23

[Commentary by Cerge M. Remonde: "Mayor Osmeña Explains His Stand on Problem of Insurgency Here"]

[Excerpt] Mayor Tommy Osmeña yesterday explained his controversial position on the communist insurgency problem. In a talk with the League of Concerned Students (LCS), Mayor Osmeña indicated that he has to be open to groups of conflicting ideologies as mayor of all the people in Cebu. The mayor, however, stressed that while he does not want to impose his values on the communists, he does not also want them to impose their values on us.

The mayor made it clear that there is no compromise with violators of the law. He said he looks at them regardless of ideologies. Moreover, the mayor also made it clear that he cannot condone communist terrorism and that his administration is committed to the protection of the people against this kind of menace.

Hizzoner shared with the students his vision of the future of the city. He reiterated the reason why Cebu has progressed economically ahead of other parts of the country is that because the City Government leaves the

private sector alone. He said the duty of the City Government is to provide the proper economic climate. He said the rest should be left to the private sector.

The mayor then challenged the LCS to work with the City Government in the project for streetchildren. The mayor said he, together with his wife, Margot, is introducing the big brother concept for the streetchildren. It involves the adoption by a citizen of one [of the] streetchildren as a younger brother or sister. The citizen volunteer will just have to set aside 1 day a week to spend the time with the streetchild in whatever way possible. The idea here is for somebody to give attention to the child at least once a week so that the child will feel that at least one person cares for him.

Cebu Governor Blames Manila for Aid 'Backlog'
42000041a Cebu City SUN STAR DAILY in English
11 Oct 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Cebu Governor Emilio R. Osmeña yesterday charged that "bureaucrats" in the National Government are hindering the flow of billions of dollars in foreign assistance to the countryside.

Speaking at the opening of the national conference of the Provincial Board Members Association of the Philippines (PBMAP) here, the governor said he will report this "scandalous situation" to President Aquino during a Cabinet meeting later this month.

Osmeña said there is a "backlog" of untapped foreign aid from organizations like the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which doesn't reach the provinces due to "the incapacitation of the National Government to channel it to us."

Not only is the central government failing to funnel the aid to the countryside, said Osmeña, "they are resisting this."

The governor said he will confront Cabinet members on this problem when he attends a Cabinet meeting on 26 October.

Osmeña, as chairman of the Regional Development Council (RDC) in Central Visayas, sits at these meetings in Malacañang once a month.

Colonies

Despite the Constitutional mandate to encourage local autonomy, "we still remain colonies of the National Government," said Osmeña who added that officials he has met in Congress and Malacañang just "pay lip service to decentralization."

The governor compared the National Government to "a super tanker" whose size makes it incapable of turning around.

While there have been top-level changes in administration, he warned "this is still the same Marcos bureaucracy that ran us aground in the past years."

His insight into the problem of foreign aid appears to come from his recent negotiations with the USAID to access funds to a multi-million rural development project for Cebu province.

Some P700 million, the bulk to be used as counterpart funding, is expected to be raised by the Capitol by year end when full payment is made for the lease-sale of idle province-owned real estate.

The local government officials are "more capable" of charting the development of their own provinces than "bureaucrats" in Manila who are appointed, he stressed.

Imbalance

He cited Cebu as an example of a province achieving economic growth four times faster than the national average "in spite of government."

Osmeña criticized the imbalance in the share of the national budget to local government units vis a vis economic activity.

A total of 75 percent of the country's GNP is generated by the provinces, yet their share from the national budget comes in trickles.

"if we are to get anything, we must really fight for it," he said.

He also cited Executive Order 175, which empowers mayors and governors to head the bidding and award of local infrastructure projects, as "worth nothing at all."

Though announced as a reform towards decentralization, the order still limits the scope of the chief executive to projects worth P50,000 and below and those backed by National Aid to Local Governments (NALGU) funds.

Government Buying Multinational Firms Lands for Agrarian Reform
43000036a Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
in English 5 Nov 88 p 7

[Article by Beth A. Pango]

[Text] The government has started to buy out vast tracts of land occupied by multinational corporations in Bukidnon and South Cotabato as it prepares for a takeoff of the land reform program in Mindanao.

A total of 26,154 hectares of fruit and rubber plantations—owned by the National Development Corporation but leased to Dole Philippines, Del Monte Philippines and NDC-Guthrie—was bought by the Department of Agrarian Reform for P260 million for distribution to some 20,000 landless farmworkers of the three firms.

Secretary Philip Juico said the government has set aside P60 million in immediate payment to NDC.

The transfer of the lands to the farmworkers will be done until 9 December with President Aquino personally distributing the certificate of land ownership to the farmworkers, Juico said.

Bulk of the activities on the implementation of the comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in Mindanao, according to Juico, include the appraising, surveys and registration and pre-distribution of MNC properties.

The biggest multinational firms in the country engaged in agriculture are in Mindanao, particularly Bukidnon and South Cotabato.

"Bukidnon, for instance, is a microcosm of agrarian reform problems. You'll find there idle lands, sequestered lands, MNC occupied properties... so we are concentrating our work there," said Juico.

Juico said a task force was formed to look into the requirements for the land transfer of the lands it bought from the NDC.

The Del Monte management has also formed a task force to help the DAR speed up the work and has even offered the use of its computer facilities to hasten the listing of beneficiaries.

Juico said that after the distribution of these lands, other lands leased by MNC from the NDC all over the Philippines will be the next target.

Economic Intelligence Chief on Smuggling Allegations, Anticommunist Operations
43000036d Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English 26 Oct pp 16-18

[Interview with Lieutenant Colonel Romeo Maganto, Tondo Station Commander of Manila Police, by Cynthia P. Allanigue, Philippine News and Features: "Romeo Maganto Contra Almonte"]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Romeo Maganto, Manila police and station commander of Tondo under the jurisdiction of the Western Police District (WPD), is one of the most decorated policemen in the country. A supporter of the policy to organize vigilante groups against New People's Army (NPA) "Sparrow Units," Maganto was chosen

police officer of the year by both the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police (PC-INP) and the Philippine Jaycees. His station (Station I) was also adjudged "best police station of the year" 1988.

These achievements, however, have been beclouded by charges of "smuggling" leveled against him and his superior—General Alfredo Lim, WPD superintendent—by the Economic Intelligence Investigation Bureau (EIIB) led by Commissioner Jose Almonte. Almonte, a retired general, accused officers of WPD of escorting vans containing P2 million worth of smuggled goods out of Manila's North Harbor. The accusation was denied by Lim and Maganto who, in turn, accused Almonte of waging a "smear campaign" against the WPD.

Almonte's allegations have prompted Maganto to file a P5-million libel suit against the EIIB chief at the Manila Fiscal's Office for allegedly "besmirching his reputation as a police officer."

In a telephone interview with Philippine News and Features reporter Cynthia P. Allanigue, Maganto shared his views on the EIIB-WPD case, and Manila policemen's "tainted image."

[Question] General Alfredo Lim said that the EIIB under General Jose Almonte has waged a "smear campaign" against him and the WPD. Why would he be doing that?

[Answer] We don't understand the stories that come out of the broadcast and print media. General Lim has refrained from commenting, that's why he doesn't grant interviews. It is just a battle of press releases. If we are going to answer each of those releases by General Almonte, we will be left with nothing to do but issue press releases. I think the issue was resolved when we appeared at the Senate hearing presided by Senator Mamintal Tamano. He [Tamano] even went to the office of General Lim to make an ocular inspection. He even commented that the allegations against General Lim were baseless.

[Question] But General Almonte said that the case, as far as he was concerned, was already closed until he heard, from the Capital Command, a report sent by the WPD implicating the EIIB in the "hijack" of the container vans.

[Answer] See, his statements are wrong again. In my report, I did not mention that the EIIB agents hijack the trucks. Our report mentioned a "hijacked cargo truck." It was reported to us. When my men intercepted the trucks, the EIIB agents arrived, claiming that they had intercepted the trucks. So my men asked the EIIB agents to come with them to Station I. We said there was no problem there because we were going to release the trucks after verification.

[Question] So there was coordination between your men and the EIIB?

[Answer] Yes. They [the EIIB agents] called up General Almonte, who, on the other hand, called up General Lim requested for a turnover of the cargo trucks to his agents. General Lim called me up. Unfortunately I was not in my office because I was previewing [the movie] "Boy Negro". When I came at 4 p.m., my men told that General Lim had issued an order to release the cargo trucks, because they were already caught by the EIIB. So we released the trucks. We did not even see the contents, we just got the plate number. According to the report of the EIIB, the contents of the two container vans were smuggled goods worth P2 million. The only reason why we reacted was because, the day after the cargo trucks were turned over, press releases from the EIIB came out saying we were escorting the trucks. That was foul.

[Question] But General Almonte seemed to have a strong basis for issuing his statements implicating the WPD, or else he would have refrained from making statements.

[Answer] That's what I think it is better for us to go to the proper forum. We are a democratic country. We have our judicial system. We had to bring the issue to court. I filed charges against Almonte for libel asking for P5 million in damages. I filed the charges myself because I am the one affected. The report saying that we arrested EIIB agents and detained them in our station is not true.

[Question] Didn't you detain them for half a day?

[Answer] Liars (laughing). You know, lies when they are said often, seem like they're true.

[Question] General Almonte said that his being a RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] member has something to do with your attitude towards him. Is this true?

[Answer] What has his being a RAM member to do with all this? That's not true. I don't know what's in that guy's mind. He's the one who's after us. We're not after him.

The EIIB is no problem. We have nothing against it. The people in EIIB are tasked to do their jobs as members of EIIB. You know, at the North Harbor, 300 to 400 container vans leave everyday. I have been assigned there for more than 1 year and this is the only time that this happened.

[Question] So escorting container vans even upon request is not part of your duties?

[Answer] Naturally. It is not part of our job. It was part of a memorandum issued by [Capcom Chief Brigadier General Alexander] Aguirre.

[Question] Since both EIIB and WPD are government agencies, why did you have to elevate the case to the court? Couldn't you have just talked about it and settled the issue among yourselves?

[Answer] That's why we said this is quite different. We did not want to issue press releases because nothing is going to come out of it. The people are just going to laugh at us. We have so many problems here in the district like the NPA Sparrow Units, that we have to attend to instead of issuing press releases. Instead of answering him with press releases, I'll just let him be. He probably just wants to be popular, let him be.

[Question] What are these problems you are referring to and how do you intend to address them?

[Answer] Right now we have been able to paralyze and neutralize the Sparrows in our area. It hasn't reached zero percent but it's a very small percentage now. Tondo is now generally peaceful; we have almost eradicated the drug addiction problem. Even the gang wars are gone now. There is no more theft. Previously, holdups, thefts and robberies were so rampant here. Now the police are engaging in civic action programs like the Manila Junior Police, launched last week. These are out-of-school youth aged 11 to 18 joining the course for junior policemen.

[Question] How different is this junior police program from the Manila Crusaders for Peace and Democracy, which you formed to fight the NPA Sparrows?

[Answer] That's different. That's already established. Right now we have more than 3,000 members. The Sparrows have abandoned their safehouses in our areas. We have completely paralyzed their operations.

[Question] A news article recently said your most significant achievement in your areas is in the anti-communist campaign. However, it also said that as a result of your campaign, you have been accused of human rights violations in the form of abductions and summary executions, particularly of military student leaders.

[Answer] You know, they have been accusing me of that for a very long time. I was even charged by the Human Rights Commission, but all those charges were proven to be unfounded. They were all dismissed for lack of merit... You can check with the Commission on Human Rights. The CPP-NPA has the most number of violations. They have killed some of our policemen and two of my vigilantes. But we all caught them.

[Question] What then do you think is the reason for the police's "unpopularity"?

[Answer] More than 99 percent of our police officers are dedicated to their sworn duty as protectors of the right of the people. We have a small percentage of scoundrels. Most were recommended for summary dismissal. Some are detained at the disciplinary barracks of Capcom. At our own level, we are instituting discipline.

[Question] In general, policemen are not regarded as guardians of civilian rights nor the epitome of honesty.

[Answer] The problem is, every time a policeman does something good, it is not given too much publicity, but when he commits a wrong, there is much publicity. This is what the people want to read. All of us officers are doing our utmost to clean our own ranks to dedicate our service to the people.

[Question] How do you plan to counter all the negative publicity? what exactly are you doing about reports of police involvement in murder, theft, smuggling and prostitution?

[Answer] By closely monitoring our own policemen. For my part, I have no single police officer here who has been involved in holdups, smuggling and prostitution, or any of the crimes you mentioned. My policemen here, believe me, during the last promotions in December, about 50 percent of them were promoted because they did their jobs well.

Small Farmers Association Discusses Rights Violations, Negros Militarization
43000036f Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English 9 Nov 88 pp 35,36

[Letter by the Small Farmers Association in Negros, in "Democratic Space": "De Facto Martial Law"]

[Text] In Negros the struggle must go on against to those who controlled and possessed the lands. We believed lands was not made for a few, all possess that God-given right to use and enjoy the fruits of the earth for the advancement of their lives. Ever since nowhere is social justice, brought about by this system of land and resources distribution. Here only two provinces exist, the province of the landlords and the sugar barons and the province of the landless and jobless Negrenses. More than 95 percent of the population are totally landless, and yet out of the handful who owned the land, 16.9 percent own 72.4 percent of the total private land holdings, with 3.9 percent of the land owners (with the land sizes measuring 50 hectares above) accounting 49.4 percent of the total. Instead of redressing the unjust socio-economic system, the government more complex under the Aquino regime responded by encouraging the vigilantes death squads fed by the hacenderos. These caused massive violation of human rights and resulted to stunted the economic growth due to climate of fear.

Compared to other provinces, Negros is highly militarized with 5 Philippine Army battalions, the 6th, 7th, 11th, 12th, and the 61st; with 8 Philippine Constabulary companies, the 325th, 331st, 333rd, 334th, 336th, 337th, 332nd, and 339th; with 4th Scout Ranger Company, the Regional Special Action Force Battalion, with Philippine Marines, and augmented with CAGUS, PCFC, ALSAMA, Vigilantes, against the hungry and oppressed Negrenses. The Negros Island Commander Colonel Rene Cardones is expecting another two more battalions and that he is winning the war against the innocent civilians.

Recently, a total of 570 evacuees comprising 117 families from the hinterlands of Himamaylan and Binalbagan towns 82 kilometers from Bacolod City. Twelve children ranging from the age of 9 months to 11 years old and two adults died of epidemic gastroenteritis and other communicable disease. Their houses were burned by the composite team of soldiers and paramilitary troopers.

And the massacre continues. Task Force Detainees-Negros (TFD-N) report stated that six civilians were killed while others were seriously wounded in an incident which the military claim as an encounter between their forces and the rebels on 10 September 1988 in Sitio Malalag, Barangay Biao, Binalbagan. Those were killed identified as Rosalinda Cabodillo. Visitacion Cabodillo and her son Rodrigo, Vedasto Sabanal, Wilfredo Pabor, and Joyjoy Cabodillo. The wounded were Nonila Sabanal, who was shot in the right leg; Alex Cabodillo, shot in the right leg; Danilo Ramos who suffered multiple gunshot wounds in his chin, arm, leg, stomach; and Norlita Cabodillo, 1 year old, who was shot in the right arm.

These Human Rights Violations is no joke that everyone of us should be concerned of. Let's us all unite, oppose and expose the fascist military and the cruelty of this regime. The Small Farmers Association in Negros stand against the de facto Martial Law, while pursuing the implementation of a genuine agrarian reform.

Small Farmers Association in Negros.

Trade Secretary Views Progress, Limits in ASEAN Trade Cooperation
43000036 Quezon City NATIONAL MIDWEEK in English 19 Oct 88 p 19

[Interview with Jose Concepcion, Philippine Secretary of Trade and Industry, by Peter Mytri Ungphakorn and Thanong Khanthong: "The Engines of Change Must Move"]

[Text] Jose Concepcion is a relieved man, but he is not content.

For 15 years he has been fighting to create ASEAN collaboration on car production, first as a businessman and now as the Philippines' trade and industry secretary.

Yesterday, ASEAN economic ministers signed an agreement offering incentives to companies producing components in several ASEAN countries for assembly into cars or other vehicles in one or more of the member countries.

But, he said yesterday, next year he will try to change the agreement so that approval for projects receiving the incentives is less bureaucratic.

And he took the opportunity to challenge ASEAN's business communities to take a more positive attitude towards ASEAN's progress in providing the means for economic and commercial cooperation.

Since the December ASEAN Summit in Manila, he said, a lot more is being offered, but the private sector has failed to study the opportunities. "The private sector has miserably responded to that," he added.

Concepcion was interviewed in the quiet of his hotel room. Outside under the watchful eye of security guards, Singapore's Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong, minister for trade and industry, was taking a quick and solitary swim in the pool of the hotel's exclusive wing. Malaysia's Datu Paduka Rafidah Azia, minister of trade and industry, was out shopping.

Concepcion was surrounded by papers, scrutinizing the fine print of the agreement and the draft press release on the meeting, which had proceeded so smoothly business was completed during the first of the two-and-a-half scheduled days.

"Anand calls me a traitor," he said laughing. Anand Panyarchun, executive chairman of Saha Union and former ambassador and permanent secretary with the Thai Foreign Minister, was one of several ASEAN business representatives who complained to the economic ministers about lack of progress in cooperation on trade and investment.

Concepcion has traveled the reverse route, from business into government.

He highlighted three achievements of the meeting that ended yesterday: the agreement on the "brand-to-brand complementation" car component production, ASEAN's unified stand on the Uruguay Round of international trade liberalization talks—particularly on tropical products—and the progress made on trade concessions and investment incentives agreed at the Manila Summit.

Since the summit, he said, ASEAN economic ministers have been transformed. They now have to help ASEAN through the changing world environment that so many have noted—European Community Market unification in 1992/93, the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement. ASEAN has to be a cohesive economic bloc, Concepcion said, but the prospects are good.

"Growth will take place in this region. Developed countries know that." As an example he cited EC, before its formation, there was less trade within Europe, he pointed out.

The ASEAN governments have begun to perform their role, he said. This year, 1,679 items are being added to the list of goods enjoying tariff reductions of at least 25 percent for trade between ASEAN members bringing the

total number under the Preferential Trading Arrangement to 14,462 (but that includes a number of unimportant goods in terms of ASEAN trade such as the proverbial show ploughs). Another 3,261 items will have the import duty cut to half or less of the normal rate when traded between ASEAN members.

Officially promoted ASEAN industrial joint ventures will now be approved more easily. The governments has identified 100 products at present imported from outside ASEAN in volumes of US\$5 million or more than are regarded as potentially promising products for joint venture production in ASEAN. Local content requirements and foreign investment ceilings have been relaxed.

Dato' Paul Leong, Malaysian chairman of the private sector's group of 14 ASEAN experts studying cooperation, was scathing in his criticism of the list that he said had yielded only four possible joint ventures.

Concepcion said in response that it is up to the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry and ASEAN's private sector as a whole to study the opportunities and propose additional products to be granted promotion.

"They are the engines of change. They must move," he said.

The agreement promoting production of car components of the same brand among different ASEAN members open another opportunity for the private sector, he said. Manufacturers of motorcycles and commercial vehicles could also become interested.

So far many Japanese companies have been reluctant to share production of their components among countries in the region. Now that Mitsubishi is about to do that, with the participating countries halving import duties on the components made in other participating countries, competing companies will have to look at the possibilities more carefully, he said.

But he was sympathetic towards Indonesia's reservations on the programme, reservations that almost disrupted ASEAN unity. Indonesia requires its motor industry eventually to use components that are all locally made.

"To a certain extent I think that's good," he said.

Indonesia fears that participation in the "brand-to-brand" scheme could undermine its own policy, because after at most 8 years it will have to halve the import duty on components produced in other countries under the "brand-to-brand" scheme even if in not participating in the shared production.

Concepcion said Indonesia was persuaded that with the largest market in ASEAN, it stands to gain from the scheme. His view is shared by some Thai officials.

But some issues still have to be cleared up. Concepcion said, such as Malaysian customs regulations that charge lower duties on complete kits of components for only part of a car coming from one country such as Thailand (with the remainder coming from the Philippines and Malaysia itself) are still components and not spare parts.

He also dislikes the requirement for a committee of ASEAN officials, the Committee on Industry, Mining and Energy, to grant approval for "brand-to-brand" projects. Next year, he said, he will try to amend the memorandum of understanding so that if a company such as Mitsubishi reaches agreement with the governments concerned that is sufficient for the project to be promoted.

On the Uruguay Round, Concepcion expressed concern. He takes heart from ASEAN's determination to stand together, but is pessimistic on the prospects of the major industrial countries being persuaded to offer meaningful progress, particularly on tropical products, before 5 December mid-term review in Montreal. Meetings in the coming weeks could be crucial.

Unlike the talks on agriculture, where grand plans for liberalizing trade and phasing out subsidies are being discussed, the tropical products negotiations centre on

different countries offering to lower or scrap import tariffs and quotas on specific goods. The aim is to assist developing countries that are the main producers of tropical goods.

But Concepcion complained that the concessions being offered are not on goods that matter to ASEAN, and that ASEAN members are being asked to offer concessions in return. Sometimes this is unfair, he said, because liberalization has already been introduced as part of restructuring outside the talks. For example, the Philippines has already lifted barriers on imported apples, pears and other fruit, and should not be asked for more concessions by countries that could import its bananas.

Moreover the Uruguay Round was never intended as a forum for trading liberalization in agriculture and concessions on tropical products with new rules on intellectual property or investment, he said.

The developed countries should live up to their pledge to help developing countries in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the frame work for the Uruguay Round.

"Prove to us you're really not a club of rich countries," he challenged.

Columnist: SEV Shows Humanitarianism on U.S. POW/MIA

42970831a Bangkok *BAN MUANG* in Thai
10 Oct 88 p 2

["Stop the World" column by Kasek: "A Humanitarian Matter, the United States and Vietnam"]

[Excerpt] The United States fought a war against Vietnam for many years, using a large number of men and a variety of weapons to fight the Vietnamese. U.S. aircraft dropped bombs on and fired rockets at military bases and important strategic points in northern Vietnam, including Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. Many bridges and villages were destroyed. Something very sad is that a hospital was bombed, too. [passage omitted]

The U.S. government under the leadership of President Reagan, a Republican, has asked the Vietnamese government to show humanitarianism, help look for the bodies of American servicemen killed in northern Vietnam when their aircraft were shot down, and return their bodies to their families. The Vietnamese government has helped the American government based on humanitarian principles.

The U.S. government does not have diplomatic relations with Vietnam. But Vietnam has allowed Americans to come to Vietnam. Last week, American jeeps were driving about the Vietnamese countryside north of Hanoi, with Vietnamese soldiers riding along, too. The Americans had been given permission to question the farmers and villagers, who may have seen aircraft crash or who may have captured American pilots during the war. [passage omitted]

During the past 15 years, the Vietnamese government has returned the remains of 190 American servicemen to representatives of the U.S. government. The families of American MIAs believe that some American servicemen are still alive. [passage omitted]

In 1963, Vietnam has turned over the remains of 70 American servicemen to representatives of the U.S. government. But some Americans still believe that some American servicemen are still alive in Indochina. This has sparked hope among the families of American servicemen, particularly the family of Li Cal Anthony Sign, whose aircraft crashed along the Lao-Vietnamese border. He is one of those who is listed as missing in action.

These American families would prefer to hear that their loved ones are still alive rather than that their remains have been found. The Vietnamese government has shown humanitarianism in responding to the request made by the American government, which once ordered aircraft to bomb and destroy Vietnam.

E-Aschist Trade Issues Continue To Spark Debates

MP, Ex-Minister on Ways To Boost Thai
42970828 Bangkok *MATCHON* in Thai 8 Nov 88 p 22

[Excerpt] On 7 October, the second day of the conference, the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, and the Peace and Development Project held a seminar on the topic "Thai-Lao Relations." Mr Phiangphun Phakphak, a Prachachon Party MP from Yasothon Province, presented a paper on this topic in his capacity as an MP from the northeast. He said that the Thai parliament, particularly the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, has attached great importance to the matter of Thai-Lao cooperation ever since the time when Gen Kriangsak Chavanon was prime minister. Great emphasis has been placed on improving trade relations with Laos. But little has been achieved. When Mr Prang Pattanabhorn became the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, he summarized matters for parliament and recommended improving trade relations with neighboring countries, beginning with Laos. If this can be done, we will also open trade with Vietnam.

Mr Phiangphun said that there are two ways to improve Thai-Lao relations. First, we should not focus only on solving the border problems. We should also try to solve the cultural problems, because in the past we have not given attention to this. In particular, the Thai mass media has published reports on the Ban Ban Kiao problem as if Laos is of a lower class. This has affected Thai who live in the northeast. Besides this, Thailand still takes the phrase "fraternal country" to mean that Thailand is the "older brother." Laos, on the other hand, takes this to mean that we are "relatives" of equal status. Second, the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee feels that trade relations can be established immediately and that this will lead to greater cooperation. Trade will make it necessary for both countries to rely on one another. Besides this, markets in Indochina will be huge markets in the future. Closing the border does not mean that trade between our countries will decline. Rather, it means that illegal trade will increase. If border trade is permitted, besides the fact that this trade will be legal, the border problems will decline.

Mr Phiangphun said that to solve the problems in order to bring about greater cooperation, we must concentrate first on solving the political problems. The main obstacle is the National Security Council (NSC), which is not ready to revise the policy in order to bring about political cooperation. It refuses to grant permission to open border trading points, because it is still worried about national security. Besides this, the prime minister has said that he wants to transform the Indochina battlefield into a trade field. Mr Phiangphun said that he doesn't know if the prime minister was serious about this or whether he was joking. When he went to Malaysia, he said one thing, but when he went to Singapore he said

something else. When he spoke at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he again said something different. This has made it difficult to implement this policy.

Mr Wong Phansavan, an advisor to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee and the former deputy minister of foreign affairs, said that [passage omitted] if the senior people concerned carry out their roles sincerely, junior government officials will act accordingly. He said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not the only one involved. Others involved include the Ministry of Interior, the provincial governors, and the district officers. The various factors prohibiting us from improving relations with each other should be overcome. Thailand should implement a trade policy with Indochina. The Soviet Union, which is a socialist country, has trade relations with the Western free-world countries. Thailand should consider the benefits to be derived from trading with Laos, which is a neighboring country. Laos can be a big market for our goods. Thailand will obtain electricity from the Ngum Dam of Laos, which can generate more electricity than all of Thailand. It will not be necessary to build the Chien Dam. Besides this, Laos has good-quality coal in the mountains. [passage omitted]

One person at the seminar said that if the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee wanted to achieve results on this issue, it should have invited the minister of foreign affairs and representatives from the NSC and the military to discuss the issue and reach an understanding. We can't carry on trade with Laos at present because of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is a great obstacle. Also, the government's policy is still unclear. The government should take quick action before something happens.

Conflict in Ministry Over PREK Timber 42070028 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 5 Oct 88 p 22

[Text] A news report stated that at the 4 October cabinet meeting, the cabinet did not discuss the issue submitted by the Office of the Judicial Council. It had asked the cabinet to order the Customs Department to reject a shipment of timber belonging to the P. Phasab Sawmill, which has a certificate of origin showing that the timber is from Cambodia. The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs do not feel that we should accept this document, because that would be tantamount to recognizing the Heng Samrin government.

This matter was placed on the cabinet's agenda. However, to solve this problem, the Office of the Judicial Council will talk with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. People in this ministry hold conflicting views on this issue.

Move on PREK Origin Timber 42070028 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Oct 88 pp 1, 24

[Text] The P. Phasab Sawmill Company Ltd has requested permission to import 1,700 cubic meters of

timber valued at 2.5 million baht. The company has a certificate of origin showing that the timber is from Cambodia. The timber was purchased from the Talika Trading Company of Singapore. But customs officials at the Khong Yai Checkpoint in Trat Province have refused to release the timber, because the National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refuse to accept the certificate of origin, saying that Thailand does not have diplomatic relations with the Heng Samrin government. Mr Thanit Traiwat, a Prachachon Party MP from Trat Province and the manager of the P. Phasab Company, said that actually, this timber was not imported from Cambodia. It was imported from Singapore. A company in Singapore purchased this timber from Cambodia and then transported it to Singapore.

Mr Thanit said that the reason why it was necessary to use this certificate of origin was that Ministry of Commerce Announcement No 53 states that there must be a certificate of origin from the producing country. Singapore does not have any forests. Singapore issued a certificate of purchase and other documents.

"At that time, domestic timber was very expensive. Malaysian timber was of poor quality. I had to compete against Taiwan for this shipment of timber. But it has been lying about for about a year now. About 30 percent of the timber has rotted. The interest is 13.5 percent. I will wait for a decision from the cabinet on 4 October. If the cabinet orders the Customs Department to release the timber, that will be the end of the matter. But if they refuse to allow us to import this timber, I will take the matter to court in order to seek justice," said Mr Thanit.

Mr Thanit said that some people have accused him of smuggling timber worth 50 million baht into the country. But this timber is worth only 2.5 million baht, and he has to pay various costs. Even if the cabinet issues a resolution allowing him to import this timber, he said that he isn't sure whether he will do this again or not. He said that he will have to think about that because of all the trouble involved in importing timber. He said that he is tired of this.

Mr Thanit talked about Maj Gen Chatchai Chanthawan's policy of opening trade with the Indochina countries. He said that this is a good policy. If we don't do this, the ones who will benefit will be the wealthy financiers who traffic in smuggled goods along the border. The poor villagers won't have an opportunity to benefit. Besides this, this will give officials a chance to profit illegally.

"Today, these people smuggle goods and sell them to Cambodians. The goods are loaded aboard boats at Mahachai and transported to Kang Island off the coast of Cambodia," said a news source.

A news source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that at the cabinet meeting, Md Li Praphat Limpaphan, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, will explain why

we should not trade with Cambodia. The Thai government does not recognize the Heng Samrin government. We recognize the CGDK. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs cannot accept certificates of origin issued by the Heng Samrin government, because it cannot check these.

"As for why we don't trade with Cambodia, it's not that we don't have diplomatic relations with them. Many countries that don't have diplomatic relations with Thailand still trade with us. One example is Taiwan. The real reason is that we don't recognize the Heng Samrin system," said the news source.

The news source said that recently, the National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a meeting to discuss the question of whether to allow timber from Cambodia to be imported into the country. Both agreed that this cannot be done and that we cannot establish general trade with Cambodia. That would be tantamount to recognizing the Heng Samrin system.

Seminar Focuses on Laos Trade, MP Comments
42070028 Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai
12-18 Oct 88 pp 26, 27

[Excerpts] On 6 and 7 October, a seminar on the topic "Thai-Lao Relations" was held at Thammasat University. Those who organized the seminar included the Peace and Development Program, the Faculty of Political Science at Thammasat University, and the Lao Committee for World Peace, Solidarity, and International Friendship. [passage omitted]

Lao scholars attending the seminar included Mr Hiam Phoramachan, the vice chairman of the Lao Committee for World Peace, Mr Ku Chansanao, the chief of the Lao Planning Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Irrigation, and Agricultural Cooperatives, Mr Khamtan Thepbuali, a member of the Secretariat of the Lao National Construction Front, Mr Phoung Saiyalat, the head of the Institute of Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr Khamchan Latnavong, the deputy chief of the Asia-Pacific Department, and Mr Vanthalom Akkhalat, a foreign political commentator. [passage omitted]

Speaking on the topic "Scientific and Technological Relations," Mr Phoung Saiyalat said that even though our two countries are not yet cooperating on the scientific and technical front, if we begin to cooperate on this in the future, this will support cooperation on the economic, trade, and other fronts. He said that to improve and develop a country's economy, it is necessary to develop domestic science and technology and improve international cooperation. This is not a matter of simply transferring technology from the more advanced countries to the less advanced countries. There must be nonexploitive cooperation. The countries must deal with each as equals, with each side benefiting.

"Thailand and Laos have natural resources, and the way of life of our two people's is very similar. Thailand is wealthier, but in some respects Laos is richer. It would be best for both countries if we can coordinate things for the development of both countries," said Mr Phoung. [passage omitted]

Dr Surachai Sirikrai, the dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, said that since 1975, the Indochina countries, including Laos, have had a communist system. Our differences in political ideals and mistrust of each other have posed an obstacle to improving bilateral relations. Some of the problems are: More than 300,000 Lao refugees have fled to Thailand. Some of these Lao oppose the Lao communist party. The Thai-Lao border is poorly demarcated, and this poses a problem. There is also the problem of the Communist Party of Thailand, which has received aid from Laos.

"We have still not been able to solve these problems. Both sides must show that they are sincere and trust each other. The governments of both countries must be willing to make compromises in negotiating a solution to the problems in order to prevent an outbreak of hostilities such as occurred at Ban Rom Klao," said Dr Surachai.

The dean of the Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, said that Thai-Lao relations have been tied to the Cambodia problem. This is because Vietnam has involved Laos in this problem. Thus improving relations between Thailand and Laos depends in part on solving the Cambodia problem, which in turn depends on the views of the leaders of Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and China. In the case of the Soviet Union, the new leader, Mr Gorbachev, is taking a new approach and is trying to reduce the confrontation with the United States, China, and Asia. As a result, Vietnam's leaders have shown a willingness to compromise on solving the Cambodia problem. At the same time, the negotiations to improve Thai-Lao relations have created a better atmosphere.

"The most important thing is that the countries in this region should stop trying to destroy each other. They should stop trying to exert influence over each other. Laos should demand that Vietnam withdraw all its troops from Laos. Every country should focus on developing its economy. Thailand and Laos should cooperate more on the economic, technological, and investment fronts for the benefit of the peoples of both countries," said Dr Surachai.

Mr Vanthalom Akkhalat said that an important obstacle that is affecting Thai-Lao relations today is the lack of mutual understanding. The two countries are suspicious of each other. This is a result of propaganda. As a result, Thailand and Laos have split apart. Thus, these things should be eliminated.

Mr Wong Phonlanikon, an advisor to the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, said that he would like to see the leaders of both countries show greater mutual understanding and trust. They should have clear policies. They must set an example by acting sincerely.

"Thai-Lao cooperation will benefit both countries. There is no other way. For example, we can cooperate on the trade and investment fronts. The electricity-generating capacity of Laos' Ngum Dam is equal to that of all of Thailand. Laos has large deposits of coal. It has forests. It can improve its airline and promote tourism. As the Lao representative said, if we cooperate, Thai will have the advantage," said Mr Wong.

Dr Phiraphan Phalusuk, an MP from Yasothon and the deputy chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, said that he favors improving trade relations with Laos first, because this will lead to better understanding and the two countries will start to rely on each other. We can start here and then expand this to other countries in the region.

"But there are political obstacles. The security sector claims that if we trade with them, we will become wealthier but agents posing as merchants will infiltrate the country. Or they tie this to Vietnam or say that we must find out what China thinks about this. Those in the security sector must change their views," said this MP from the northeast. [passage omitted]

Editorial Sees Obstructionism on PRK Log Ban
42070028 Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai
12-18 Oct 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Sitthi-Chatchai, Unity Atop A Dispute Waiting To Explode"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The prime minister has announced that his policy is to turn the Indochina battlefield into a trade field. Not only is this in harmony with the military's line, but it will benefit Thailand's economy by expanding our markets. This will also foster an atmosphere of peace in this region.

But Maj Gen Chatchai's policy, which will benefit the country, is opposed by the conservatives in the National Security Council and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Customs Department has refused to release a shipment of logs originating in Cambodia that the P. Phaibun Sawmill Company purchased from Singapore. The National Security Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refuse to accept the documents. They have told the Customs Department that according to present government policy, Thailand does not recognize the Heng Samrin system. The Phnom Penh government was set up by Vietnam. It is not the legitimate government and so we cannot accept such documents. The Ministry of Commerce, on the other hand, announced that logs bearing the stamp of the producing

country and having a certificate of origin from the exporting country (Singapore in the present case) can be imported without having to obtain permission from the minister of commerce. This announcement did not specify that the certificate of origin must be from a country that has diplomatic relations with Thailand.

The Arbitration Committee ruled that the Ministry of Commerce's announcement requires only a certificate of origin. It did not stipulate that the producing country must be a country that has diplomatic relations with Thailand. Thus, it recommended that the prime minister order the Customs Department to accept the tax and release the logs. But this matter will probably have to be submitted to the cabinet for consideration. The cabinet will have to decide whether to allow these logs to be brought into the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opposed this, saying that the producing country does not have diplomatic relations with Thailand. Singapore is a member of ASEAN, too, and it does not have diplomatic relations with the Heng Samrin government. But it still has trade relations with Cambodia. This is because the government of Singapore is more concerned about implementing policies that benefit the people of Singapore. [passage omitted]

As for the various conflicts involving individuals and political parties, from the attitude of the prime minister, it can be seen that there is a chance of solving many of the problems. But regarding the dispute on what policy to implement toward Indochina, the conservatives are posing a major obstacle. Thus, it will be difficult to hit the government's target. As a result of this dispute, the government's unity will soon disintegrate unless the Chatchai administration takes quick action to solve this problem by making compromises.

Surin Phitsawan Comments on Laos Trade
42070028 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 5 Oct 88 p 3

[Excerpt] At parliament on 4 October, Mr Surin Phitsawan, the spokesman for the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, announced the results of today's meeting. He said that the subcommittee discussed the matter of promoting trade with neighboring countries, particularly Laos and Burma. Representatives from the private sector were invited to attend the meeting. This included representatives from the Industrial Council of Thailand, the Banking Association of Thailand, the Bank of Thailand, commercial banks, the Thai Chamber of Commerce, and chambers of commerce in the border provinces such as Ranong, Ubon Ratchathani, Trat, Rayong, and Chanthaburi.

Mr Surin said that the representatives from the private sector all agreed that Thailand should promote and support trade with these two countries. Actually, trade with these two countries is greater than the official statistics indicate. The subcommittee feels that we now have an excellent opportunity for investing with these two countries. Many other countries have long been looking for such a chance. But we have certain advantages that other countries don't have. This includes geographical and cultural advantages.

"The representatives from the private sector stressed that the government should take quicker action on this. It should carry on negotiations and reach a government-level agreement on investing jointly and establishing a commercial bank. We must find ways to insure the capital and assets of the Thai businessmen and investors who do business in these two countries. Actually, Thailand's present technology is like that of Japan in the past. Japan had to rely on the Asian countries as trade markets. Thailand can do the same thing with Laos and Burma," said Mr Surin. He added that the subcommittee called on the commercial banks to open branches in these two countries. But Bangkok Bank pointed out that we did that in the past. This is a matter of proper timing. Branches can be opened in order to facilitate trade and investment. [passage omitted]

Southern MPs Cite Malaysia Support to Separatists

42070031b Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai
10 Oct 88 p 3

[Article by Worawit Si-ananraksa: "Solving the Southern Problem, Not Just a Matter of Listening to Reports"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Based on the statements made by several southern MPs, the situation in the south can be summarized as follows:

Influential groups have built up their power in order to protect their interests or illegal activities. These groups are composed of both Thai and foreigners. Mr Sombun Sitthimon, an MP from Krabi, said that Malaysian financiers who operate oil palm plantations here often provide sanctuary to bandits. Police officials don't dare enter the plantations to arrest the bandits. As a result, these gunmen have increased the influence of these foreign financiers.

Besides this, the problems in the south are also connected to national interests. This is because there is an international border there. People smuggle contraband goods and ore and support the terrorist movement. Recently, there have been reports that PULO bandits are able to cross back and forth across the border easily, because the Malaysian government has issued cards that they can use as border transit passes. PULO bandits, or bandit terrorists, commit crimes in Thailand and then flee to Malaysia. Police officials cannot pursue them across the border. [passage omitted]

Commerce Minister Boosts Trade Limits for "Border Countries"

42070030d Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 4 Oct 88 p 3

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Mr Prathuang Sirotbang, the deputy director-general of the Department of Internal

Trade, said that the Ministry of Commerce is in the process of revising the ministry regulation on increasing the value of rice exports, particularly to border countries. The department is revising the Ministry of Commerce regulation, Ministry of Interior Regulation No 5 (1987), which was promulgated based on the 1946 Rice Trade Act and which was issued on 29 January 1987, and Announcement No 134 (1986) by the Committee To Take Action Based on the 1946 Rice Trade Act, which stipulates that those who request permission to export rice at a fee of 2,000 baht per regulation must be from a border province. And they can export rice only to countries that border Thailand. Also, the value of the rice exported cannot exceed 20,000 baht per day. The Ministry of Commerce feels that in order to facilitate things and help enable border rice traders to export larger quantities of rice, which will benefit the country's economy and the people and which is in accord with the Ministry of Finance's statement on stipulating the value of exports and not having to sell the foreign currency earned to the Bank of Thailand, the authorized value of exports should be increased from a ceiling of 20,000 baht per day to 50,000 baht per day. The fee will remain the same, that is, 2,000 baht per regulation.

Mr Prathuang said that this supports the policy of transforming the battlefield into a trade field. The Department of Internal Trade is in the process of issuing these ministry regulations. It is expected that they will be promulgated in the new future.

Profile of Newly Promoted Supreme Command General

42070031c Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai
8 Oct 88 pp 7, Special Page 4

["Saturday Profile" column by Nanthana: "One of Three Senior Major Generals: Maj Gen Thanaphon Bunyopatsatham Is Moved From His Position as Deputy Commander of the Special Warfare Command and Promoted to Lieutenant General"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Maj Gen Thanaphon Bunyopatsatham, the deputy commander of the Special Warfare Command, has been promoted to lieutenant general and attached to the Office of the Supreme Commander.

Lt Gen Thanaphon was born on 2 April 1934. He completed lower secondary school at Wat Bophitphimuk School in 1949. He graduated from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy [CRMA] in 1957. After graduating from CRMA, he served as the leader of a tank platoon with the 5th Battalion, 2d Cavalry Regiment. Then Lt Col Prem Tinsulanon was the commander of this battalion.

In 1959 he attended the U.S. Infantry School for Company Commanders in Georgia. He also observed activities at Fort Lewis in Washington. In 1960 he took the jungle training course in Malaysia. In 1963 he took the

course for field-grade commanders at the Saraburi Cavalry School. After that, he served as an operations and training officer and then as the deputy commander of the 10th Battalion, 2d Cavalry Regiment, Chakraphong Camp, Prachinburi Province. After graduating from the Army Command and General Staff College, he was assigned to the 6th Regimental Combat Team, Sapsitthiprasong Camp, Ubon Ratchathani Province. In 1966 he served as the chief of staff of the 2d Cavalry Regiment.

In 1967 he served as the commander of an Independent Company in Korea, 20th rotation. He achieved outstanding results and received a commendation after the well-known Snow Ball training exercise. The United States recommended that he attend the U.S. Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth before returning from Korea.

In 1970 he served along the border in Nan Province. He led forces in attacks against communist terrorist forces in several places. He was ambushed by communist terrorists on several occasions while using troop carriers to guard the road near Ban Huai Kron. He captured many leading communist terrorists such as Mrs Prathum, the wife of Comrade Prasit (Khe), a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT). During the Nam Chang Operation at Phu Phadaeng, he and his men seized several communist terrorist camps opposite Muong Ngoen in Laos.

In 1973 he attended the U.S. Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1974 he served as the deputy commander of the 2d Cavalry Regiment. In 1977 he led Battalion Combat Team 267 on operations in Nan Province. He and his men suppressed the communist terrorists and restored peace to the area. They also opened roads along the eastern border in northern Nan Province. This made things much more convenient for the people.

In 1981 he was transferred to the 4th Army Region, where he served as the deputy chief of staff of the 4th Army Region and commander of a thahan phran irregular unit. He took part in formulating plans and improving the thahan phran irregulars, earning an excellent reputation for himself.

Besides this, he also enhanced his reputation during the Tai Rom Yen operation. He was promoted to major general and appointed chief of staff of the 4th Army Region in 1983. In 1984 he was appointed deputy commander of the Special Warfare Command. He participated in formulating an unconventional warfare curriculum and in improving the operational efficiency of the Special Warfare Command. He became the new hope of his superiors and was constantly involved in the life of the unit. He welcomed many important visitors. He was awarded the Thai Prathamakon Monkut Decoration with sash.

He is married to Somthawin. They like a variety of foods. He stopped smoking a long time ago and drinks only on social occasions. He exercises regularly. He and his wife have three children. The oldest, Police 1st Lt Akraphon Buntopatsatham, graduated from the Samphran Police Academy. He is now attending school in the United States. Their second child is 1st Lt Sarawut Bunyopatsatham. He graduated from CRMA and is serving with the 3d Battalion, 11th King's Guard Infantry Regiment. Their youngest child is 12 years old and attends Satri Phayathai School.

He is a professional soldier who has much combat experience and who has always stood side by side with his men. As a friend of his family, I wish to congratulate him on his recent promotion. He has several years left before he retires and so he will almost surely rise even higher in the army.

Columnist Disputes Chawalit on Communism
42070030b Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 6 Oct 88 p 9

[Article by Thawip Woradilok: "Democracy and Communism"]

[Excerpts] Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the RTA CINC and acting supreme commander, gave an interview before leaving on a trip to the Philippines last week. He discussed the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT], saying that we must give attention to this movement because it is still in existence. We must warn the people everywhere about the communists so that the people can improve themselves and improve society. [passage omitted]

A generally accepted truth is that the "politics leads the military" policy and the efforts by Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the former prime minister, to build democracy achieved such good results that the king conferred the status of "statesman" on Gen Prem. Now, there is again talk about the communist threat. But the threat has decreased. Based on the fact that Gen Prem was appointed a statesman, this threat seems rather remote. And the truth is, this threat now seems even more remote than when Gen Prem was prime minister. The administration of Maj Gen Chatchai took office just recently, and most of the cabinet members were members of the Prem cabinet. Maj Gen Chatchai is undoubtedly just as capable as Gen Prem in waging a struggle against the communists. [passage omitted]

The reason why the CPT began waging an armed struggle against the government was that Field Marshal Sarit implemented a policy of the "military leads politics." Suspected communists were shot. Many people still wonder if Field Marshal Sarit shot the wrong people. Those suspects brought to trial were sentenced to less than 10 years in prison. It is well known that Field Marshal Sarit shot the wrong people in the arson case at the Phlu Market.

It can be said that it was the "military leads politics" policy of Field Marshal Sarit and his successors that sparked armed resistance against the government in many provinces. People remember this well. The armed struggle began to decline after Gen Prem became the commander of the 2d Army Region and began using a "politics leads the military" policy. That policy achieved good results, and it was later implemented nationwide. As a result, Gen Prem gained the confidence of parliament and was appointed prime minister even though he was not an elected MP. [passage omitted]

The goal of Thai society is not a perfect democracy. Rather, a perfect democracy is just the means to a prosperous society in which the rights and freedoms of the people are respected and protected. Citizens who have been accused of violating the law must have the right to post bail. They are entitled to a public trial. These are the goals of Thai society that can be reached by having a perfect democracy, which is something for which the people have been struggling for a long time. Neither parliament nor the military can grant this.

Without a perfect democracy, there will be many people who enjoy special privileges. The rights and freedoms of the people will be trampled on. The senators, who are appointed, will be able to issue resolutions contrary to those of the elected MPs.

If the country is prosperous, our educated people have jobs, and the administration respects the principle of justice based on the law, no communist group or any other power in the world will be able to destroy the country's security. Conversely, poverty, life without guarantees, and police officials who violate the rights and freedoms of citizens are all factors that pose a great threat to national security.

A system in which both political officials and bureaucrats cheat the people poses a serious threat. Everyone must be aware of this. People must not be concerned just about their own interests and the interests of their friends and party. Only if people carry out their duties honestly will we have a perfect democracy.

Editorial Wants Government Action on Foreign Land Ownership

42070030c Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
12 Oct 88 p 8

[Editorial: "National Sovereignty"]

[Excerpts] Mr Sano Thiamthong, the deputy minister of interior, who is responsible for overseeing the Department of Lands, said that the Ministry of Interior is considering revising the Land Act to prevent foreigners from grabbing Thai land. This will be considered within 60 days along with the draft prepared by MPs. It is expected that this will be submitted to parliament during the 1989 session of parliament. [passage omitted]

The deputy minister of interior said that we are not concerned only about foreigners grabbing Thai land. It is also feared that Thai whose names appear on the deeds will take this opportunity to betray foreigners, because they hold the documents.

After returning from a trip to Japan, Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan, the deputy prime minister, said that he had talked with Japanese officials about the program of sending retired people to live in Thailand. The cost of living here is cheaper, and these people can live comfortably here because they each receive 50,000 baht per month in retirement benefits from the state.

Japan will send officials to study things and survey areas in Thailand in order to achieve concrete results. Thailand will set two important conditions, that is, the Japanese will not be allowed to own land and they will not be allowed to take jobs away from Thai. [passage omitted]

Even though Thailand's Land Code clearly states that foreigners cannot own land in Thailand, there are various loopholes in the law. The fact that foreigners have purchased tens of thousands of rai of land here has caused the price of land to skyrocket. Moreover, they are making use of their greater financial power to take both farm and industrial land away from the people of the country. [passage omitted]

What the government must do as quickly as possible is to push through a Land Act that can plug up the loopholes that allow foreigners to purchase land here. At the same time, it must review the investment promotion policy before foreigners end up owning all the land.

Editorial Hails Heroes of 1973 Uprising, 1976 Repression

42070030a Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 6 Oct 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Remember the October Heroes"]

[Text] It is 6 October again, exactly 12 years since the killing of students and other people who were trying to submit a petition demanding that officials take legal action against the dictators who had killed students on 14 October 1983. Even though many years have passed, the people have not forgotten those terrible events. Those events are still fresh in people's minds. Moreover, people are still trying to find out who was responsible for what happened that day in order to record the truth in history and have this serve as a lesson regarding the students' willingness to sacrifice their lives for democracy.

We must remember not only the students who shed their blood on 6 October 1976 but also the heroes of October 1973, who rose up against the armed dictators in order to secure a democratic constitution. They demanded elections in order to secure full democratic rights for the people.

The great courage exhibited by the October heroes is an example not only to present and future generations of

Thai but also to people throughout the world who are struggling against injustice. Dictators may come to power again and try to twist history in an effort to tarnish this heroic struggle. But the people, who love justice, will not allow this. They will record the truth.

The best way to remember the October heroes is to follow in their footsteps. We must stand firm and struggle against dictatorship. We must defend democracy and help perfect the democratic system. The souls of the October heroes can then go to heaven.

Electric Power Official Foresees Shortages

42070018a Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 21 Sep 88 p 6

[Excerpt] During a debate on the topic "The Energy Problems and Policies of the Nation in the Next Decade," Mr Pricha Chungphattana, the assistant manager of the Heat Energy Development Section, Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), said that even though EGAT is doing everything possible to build additional power plants, at present not enough power is being generated to meet the needs. It takes 4-5 years to build a power plant. In 1990, there will be an electricity shortfall of approximately 1.4 percent, or 92.8 megawatts. Thus, in 1990 there will be a shortage of electricity for approximately 20-25 days. That will be the time of greatest crisis. At present, electricity reserves total approximately 15.8 percent, and in 1989 the reserves will decline to 4.6 percent, or 274.3 megawatts.

As for the future, it is thought that the rate of economic growth will decline somewhat and that the price of fuel will increase greatly. Thus, the state must give attention to the electricity generating system in order to provide security. Action must be taken to increase the amount of reserves so that our reserves are at the level of international standards, that is, 20-25 percent. EGAT has now lowered the reserves standard about 15 percent.

Mr Pricha said that the state should give attention to promoting generating hydroelectricity along the rivers, because generating hydroelectricity will make it possible to have electric power for a long period and production costs will be low. This will benefit the economy. A Mekong River Basin Development Committee has been established, but there are still many other rivers where international hydroelectricity development projects can be organized. This includes the Salween River basin. A committee should be formed to study things, formulate plans, and reach a conclusion on the feasibility of this.

Besides this, long-term electricity generating development requires that we rely more heavily on foreign sources of energy. For example, we will have to import coal to generate electricity. This is because our domestic energy sources are becoming depleted. This is why steps should be taken to develop hydroelectricity. We must also exchange energy with neighboring countries, use nuclear power to generate electricity, and obtain high technology for use in generating electricity. [passage omitted]

POLITICAL

NHAN DAN Condemns South Africa's Obstruction of Peace

*BK1012075888 Hanoi VNA in English
0705 GMT 10 Dec 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 10—NHAN DAN today criticizes the South African Administration's deliberate delay of peaceful negotiation as an act obstructing the process of peaceful settlement of existing issues in southern Africa.

"What remains to be done in southern Africa is as clear as broad daylight. The Cuban and Angolan Governments have always shown their goodwill and persistence in negotiations aimed at seeking a fair and equitable political solution. That solution must lead to the establishment of peace and security in the region, the respect of each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, the withdrawal of South African troops, the return of independence to Namibia and the pullout of Cuban Army volunteers from Angola. Such a solution conforms to the aspiration of the people in the region and has enjoyed sympathy and support from world public opinion. But the South African Administration has not abandoned its expansionist ambition and scheme of prolonging negotiations then making them unfruitful."

"In spite of obstacles, the trend of peace and stability in southern Africa is irreversible. Those who are deliberately causing obstacles will surely invite upon themselves the consequences of their act," the paper says in conclusion.

Friendship Club With Cuba Founded in Hanoi

*BK1112080588 Hanoi VNA in English
0720 GMT 11 Dec 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA 11 December—The Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Club was set up here yesterday at a cordial get-together of Vietnamese who had studied and worked in the Republic of Cuba.

Among those present were Ms Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, vice-president of the State Council, and president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association; and representatives of the party's International Department and the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association.

Cuban Ambassador Armando Saucedo Yero and many of his staff members were also present.

Speaking on this occasion, Ms Nguyen Thi Dinh pointed to the important significance of the founding of the club and expressed her wish that it would actively contribute to the consolidation of the solidarity and friendship between the two peoples.

For his part, the Cuban ambassador expressed his joy at this significant event and gratitude to the Vietnamese party, government, and people for their concern for the fostering of the fraternal friendship between Vietnam and Cuba.

The club is headed by Nguyen Dinh Hien, director of the Foreign Languages Publishing House.

Do Muoi Addresses Documentation Center Opening

*BK2311113988 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 22 Nov 88*

[Report on 22 November Ceremony To Inaugurate the National Center of Documentation on Inventions of the State Science and Technology Commission—with portions recorded]

[Summary] This morning, 22 November, the Department of Inventions of the State Science and Technology Commission and the Home Trade Construction and Installation Corporation No. 2 of the Home Trade Ministry's Construction Materials, Construction and Installation General Corporation held a ceremony to inaugurate the National Center of Documentation on Inventions of the State Science and Technology Commission on Nguyen Trai Road. This is a modern project with a total floor area of 10,000 square meters.

"Attending the inaugural ceremony were Comrades Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Dang Huu, chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission; Hoang Minh Thang, home trade minister; and Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh; chairman of the National Assembly's Judiciary Committee."

Also present were representatives of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Development Program, and a number of other international organizations and foreign embassies.

Dr An Khang, director of the Department of Inventions, read a report pointing out the functions and duties of the center and explaining the need for its establishment. He expressed the gratitude of Vietnamese scientists for the party's and state's concern and the warm and practical assistance of WIPO, the Soviet State Committee for Inventions and Discoveries, and other international organizations.

Phan Phung Sanh, general director of the Construction Materials, Construction and Installation General Corporation, read a statement highlighting the efforts of cadres and workers to speed up construction work and ensure the quality of the project.

Making an address at the ceremony, Dang Huu, chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission, affirmed that the center will make important and practical contributions to national economic development.

Before cutting the ribbon to open the center, Chairman Do Muoi delivered a speech. "He praised the cadres and workers of the Home Trade Construction and Installation Corporation No. 2 and the Department of Inventions of the State Science and Technology Commission for their close cooperation in speeding up construction work, ensuring quality, and putting the Center of Documentation on Inventions into operation on schedule. The chairman stressed:

[Begin Do Muoi recording] "In the cause of our national economic development and in the current vigorous and broad scientific and technical revolution, industrial property activities bear a major importance and constitute an objective and urgent demand for carrying forward and developing the world's technical and technological achievements, shortening the time needed for national industrialization, encouraging inventions, and applying technical and technological measures to increase labor productivity and raise the quality and efficiency of production, thereby satisfying the needs of goods production for local consumption and for export. Your activities will serve as a good model to help guide our scientific and technical cadres into production and business operations, associate scientific and technical work with economic activities, and rally scientific and technical cadres and specialists of different fields and production and business establishments in the common effort to achieve the objective of national socioeconomic development.

"Along with promulgating legal documents to institutionalize and concretize the Law on Investment and the forthcoming issuance by the state of various regulations on industrial property, your industrial property activities, with inventions, technical secrets, and technological projects as their objects, will make important contributions to creating a favorable environment for foreign investment and for the transfer of technology to our country. I am very glad that your activities have proceeded in the right direction. The issues raised by you are necessary and shall be solved soon. In our country, industry property activities are still a novelty, and the task of initiating and developing these activities remains extremely weighty. I wish you many more achievements as a result of your diversified and creative activities." [end recording]

After the ceremony, An Khang and Phan Phung Sanh held a press conference to explain the question of industrial property activities. They also answered other questions by newsmen on the functions and operations of the National Center of Documentation on Inventions.

Geographical Science Conference Addressed by Do Muoi

BK2811103988 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] A national conference on geographical science and a congress to set up the Vietnam Geographers' Association were jointly held in Hanoi from 23 to 25 November by the State Science and Technology Commission, the Vietnam Social Science Committee, the Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education and Job Training, the Ministry of Education, and the Vietnam Institute of Science.

For the past several years, our geographical sector has made practical contributions to the country's socioeconomic development, and has effectively served many scientific and technical research programs of the state and various sectors and localities. This sector has contributed to completing the charter supporting the distribution and development of the work force in Vietnam during the 1986-2000 period.

With a standpoint that is based on comprehensive geographical studies, many of its research subjects have effected various sectors and localities in the tasks of executing a strategy for rationally tapping natural resources and protecting the environment. Thanks to the many geophysical research projects of vital significance, the potential and actual situation of the country's natural resources have accurately been assessed, and orientations have been defined for rationally tapping natural resources and the environment in support of socioeconomic development.

As many as 140 research findings on seven subjects—general survey of areas, organization of production in accordance with each region, rational use of natural resources, protection of the environment, marine and population geographies, development of geographic concepts, and training and education in cartography and geographic exploration—were presented and discussed at the conference.

Although the Vietnam geographical sector has taken shape, it has not yet developed in a way that suits its important and essential role, and still exposes weaknesses in its scientific activities. For instance, while local geographical sciences have developed relatively vigorously, general geographical sciences have developed slowly and nonuniformly, and there is a prolonged gap between natural geography and socioeconomic geography. The sector's scientific potential remains weak, scattered, and backward compared with the general standard of modern geography. Meanwhile, efforts have not yet been made to define the methods of geographic study in a way that suits the nature and socioeconomic conditions in our country.

To carry out geographical studies it is necessary to ensure a combination of forces and cooperation among geographers of various generations and between local geographical researchers and general geographical researchers.

On this occasion, the congress which was held to set up the Vietnam Geographers' Association elected an executive committee comprising 25 scientists and researchers on various geographical fields throughout country.

Addressing the national conference on geographical science and the congress to set up the Vietnam Geographers' Association, Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, said:

In recent years, we still have not paid serious and adequate attention to geographical science, and still have not fully understood the position of this scientific subject. Many of us pay attention only to the sector's plans, and still have not accurately assessed the problem of territorial areas in economic planning.

In the days ahead we must pay appropriate attention to the geographical science sector in terms of organizing and training cadres and increasing the number of material and technical bases. Practical measures must be adopted to enable the geographical science sector to perform its important functions and develop its scientific potential in the long term.

Meanwhile, all geographers in our country must take the initiative and demonstrate creativity in seeking ways to extricate themselves from the present difficult situation in order to move forward to fulfill their duties in compliance with the spirit of renovation of the Sixth Party Congress resolution and other resolutions of the party Central Committee.

MILITARY

Across-the-Border Smuggling Reported
42090055 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese 25 Sep 88 p 2

[Article by Hoang Luu: "To Fight Smuggling of Foreign Goods Across the Border"]

[Excerpt] According to statistics, in the past 2 years public security forces have joined other government sectors to expose tens of thousands of cases of smuggling foreign goods across the border provinces into our country. In the first 6 months of 1988 alone, according to incomplete reports, public security forces in the border provinces have uncovered 306 cases, confiscating a great quantity of illegal imports valued at several hundred million dong, consisting largely of luxury merchandise—lipstick, facial powder, toothpaste, cigarettes, lighters, fabric, and ready-made clothes from capitalist countries—and high-grade goods—motorcycles, refrigerators, television sets, videocassette recorders, bicycle spare

parts, etc. Through various routes, contraband penetrates border provinces, flowing into commercial centers in the cities of Ho Chi Minh, Hanoi, Haiphong, Hue, and Da Nang before reaching other provinces, nationwide, forming a network of smuggling routes which link border provinces to the hinterland and vice-versa.

Border areas are different from one another in structure and characteristics. Therefore, smuggling activities are diverse. In the northern border areas, due to longstanding family ties, people from both sides often exchange visits and buy, sell and barter goods at border markets and along convenient footpaths. Since 17 February 1979, however, taking advantage of our economic difficulties, the other side has opened shops and markets near the boundary to entice border villagers into buying, selling and bartering goods, paving the way for intelligence collection and comprehensive sabotage. They spread deceptive propaganda, such as "You buy cheap for resale at high prices," "If you need it, we'll give it for free," "If you have no cash, we'll let you buy on credit," and so on, vowing to destroy us through their "commodity war." According to statistics, we have arrested 336 cases of across-the-border smuggling, confiscating a great amount of illicit goods, including 12,514 meters of velvet, 1,604 pairs of light batteries, 1,749 handkerchiefs, 4,082 cigarette lighters, 225 thermos bottles, 218 sewing machines, 158 electronic calculators, 18,945 light bulbs of various brands and other goods. It is worth mentioning that border smuggling has given rise to other offenses—stealing buffaloes, cattle and horses, and destroying areas where forestry products are grown by clearing smuggling paths. At some places, gangs of hoodlums and armed bandits have appeared, stopping smugglers to rob them. But, in any event, all these activities ended up playing into the hands of international reactionaries plotting to undermine the economy and disrupt political stability and security in our border provinces. That is why the anti-smuggling effort in the frontier areas cannot limit itself to fighting an evil, but it is also an intense political struggle aimed at protecting our economy and property against the enemy's multifaceted sabotage scheme.

Since the Pol Pot genocidal regime was overthrown by the Cambodian people, the Vietnamese-Cambodian border to the southwest has become one of peace and friendship with a rapidly growing bilateral relationship and with more and more border crossings. Cashin in on a commodity shortage and price differences between the two countries, vicious smugglers have organized an illicit traffic, bringing goods from Ho Chi Minh City to the border provinces. Since the 2d quarter of 1987 especially, that traffic has not dropped off; instead, it is showing signs of increasing. During 1986, 1987 and the 1st quarter of 1988, public security forces alone in seven border provinces have exposed and arrested 2,145 cases of across-the-border smuggling, confiscating a great quantity of illegal goods valued at several hundred million dong. A study of these illicit imports indicates that cigarettes account for 25 percent; luxury goods such

as lipstick, powder, soap, bath towels, ready-made clothes, etc., 42 percent; high-grade goods such as refrigerators, motorcycles, television sets, sewing machines, and videocassette recorders, 7 percent; with other goods accounting for the rest. Let us look at various points in Khanh Binh (An Giang) through which every day pass hundreds of boats, large and small, carrying traders from both sides. The area has grown into a center for contraband. Some vessels owned by professional smugglers and equipped with weapons fiercely resisted public security and army patrols upon being detected. More dangerously, criminal smugglers have, through corruption, recruited cadres and military ship captains and truck drivers for large-scale smuggling from Ho Chi Minh City to our southwestern provinces and Cambodia.

In recent days, before re-entering Vietnamese waters homebound ocean-going vessels made a stop at Kompong Som Port (Cambodia) to sell illegal goods to smugglers, thus avoiding control by customs and financial organs. Availing themselves of visit permits issued by local border administrations, other professional smugglers brought motorcycles and merchandise into Vietnam for sale without paying taxes.

Taking advantage of sparsely-populated areas along the border with Laos, professional smugglers have recruited truck drivers from border-crossing convoys to smuggle goods into Vietnam, hiding them in inaccessible and undetectable spots—truck tires, fuel tanks and double-bottom trunks, etc.

The across-the-border illegal traffic has had an enormous impact on domestic production. Especially, at a time when state-supplied raw materials for industry and small industry and handicrafts are still insufficient and when labor is still in surplus, illicit imports could only lead to competition and damage state-run import-export and commercial installations, disrupting the market and prices, and giving rise to more social ills. This is a concern, not only for producers, but also for business people in our country.

ECONOMIC

Scientific Cooperation Agreement Signed With Soviets

BK1112081588 Hanoi VNA in English
0722 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA 11 December—An agreement on the setting up of a joint Vietnamese-Soviet laboratory was signed here on 9 December by the Vietnam Institute of Sciences and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

The laboratory, named "Haki-Sensor," is put under the Physics Institute of the Vietnam Institute of Sciences and the Semiconductor Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. It has two branches: one in Hanoi led by Academician Nguyen Van Hieu and the other in Kiev by Soviet Academician O.V. Snitkov.

The laboratory will carry out research on new techniques and materials for the production of a number of semi-conductors, electronic equipment for special purposes, as well as items used in measuring and automation of production, etc.

Hau Giang-Hong Kong Joint Venture Formed for Exports

BK0212084588 Hanoi VNA in English
0714 GMT 2 Dec 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 2—The export food and farm produce company of the Mekong River Delta province of Hau Giang and the Vietsing Company of Hong Kong have made joint investments in building a number of factories to process goods for export.

In the first phase the two companies will build a garment factory, a food processing factory and a tannery. The Vietsing Company will contribute 55 percent of the cost of construction of the three factories which will be put into trial production early next year.

Locomotive Plant Benefits From Poland's Assistance

BK1112064688 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Summary] The Railroad General Department convened a news conference in Hanoi on the morning of 9 December to mark the first "Vietnam-Poland Friendship" railroad service between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

"Attending the news conference on the Vietnamese side were the comrade representatives of the Ministry of Communications and Transportation, the Railroad General Department, the Gia Lam Locomotive Plant, and the Hanoi Railroad Station. On the Polish side were Comrade Ambassador Marian Ejma-Multanski, many cadres of the Polish Embassy in Vietnam, and the Polish specialists working at the Gia Lam Locomotive Plant in Hanoi."

Speaking at the news conference, Bui Ba Nhuan, director of the Gia Lam Locomotive Plant, said that under a cooperation program the Gia Lam Locomotive Plant has patterned its work method after that of a Polish locomotive plant; as a result, it has turned out the first batch of cars used on today's maiden trip. He then expressed "deep gratitude to the Polish side for its wholehearted assistance, as manifested by the close collaboration of Polish specialists so far."

In his reply, Ambassador Marian Ejma-Multanski praised the "effective cooperation" between Vietnam and Poland in the area of communications and transportation. He then expressed the hope that the cars will render effective service and help further develop Vietnam's railroad service.

First Enterprise in Garment Industry Works With Foreigners

42090048a Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
in Vietnamese 29 Sep 88 p 1

[Article by V.H.L.: "Vitexco Does Business With Foreign Businessmen, Makes 200,000 Export Items"]

[Text] Vitexco Enterprise, which began to operate at the beginning of 1988, is a joint business venture among Imexco, the Municipal Union of Ready-Made Clothing Enterprises, and Singapore businessmen and so far has made about 200,000 export items (two-thirds of them for the Soviet Union and the rest for capitalist markets).

Vitexco Enterprise is the first installation of the garment industry that does joint business with a foreign country; each side has contributed 50 percent of the initial capital required for its operations. The Singapore businessmen have invested 300,000 dollars in importing machinery and equipment. About 800 laborers have been trained and have received guidance for working in the enterprise.

State Debt Frustrating Cuu Long Effort To Promote Handicraft Exports

42090053b Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese 1 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Cuu Long Province enjoys an abundant source of raw materials—rush and coconut palm—with which to produce about 20 handicraft and artistic goods for export as well as consumer goods. It has thousands of hectares of rush—both round rush and triangular rush—with an annual output of more than 4,000 tons of dried rush—and 37,000 hectares of coconut trees (including 7 million bearing fruit), giving about 66 million nuts a year. In past years, using rush as raw material, the province has turned out various kinds of rugs and mats. From coconut palm, it has made artistic goods, fiber, and rugs and has processed coconut shells into activated charcoal for export to many countries.

In 1988, the Cuu Long Handicraft and Artistic Goods Export Corporation was assigned the export norm of 1.5 million rubles/dollars [as published] worth of merchandise. In the first 6 months of the year, exports to socialist countries alone generated 976,000 rubles [as published]. Compared with the export norm, this was a fine performance; but it has not matched the province's huge potential. The greatest difficulty confronting the corporation is that the state still owes a substantial debt to the corporation and production installations, which must pay a monthly interest on their bank loans.

To overcome these difficulties, the corporation has taken steps to closely link export production to consumer production, using the proceeds of domestic sales to finance export production and to create conditions for production installations to purchase raw materials at stable prices. These measures have resulted only in

keeping export production going, while still failing to basically solve the above difficulties. That is why the corporation has been waiting day and night for the state to pay off its debts. This done, Cuu Long Province could export 2-2.5 million rubles [as published] worth of handicraft and artistic goods.

Families Settle Hoang Lien Son's New Economic Zones

BK1012134788 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] By late October, Hoang Lien Son Province had settled in its new economic zones 470 families, comprising more than 1,300 people and 1,100 laborers. This number represents 109 percent of the planned norm in terms of persons, and 111 percent in terms of laborers.

To date, most of these families have stabilized their life and engaged in production. They have opened up 107 hectares of virgin land for subsidiary crop cultivation, built nearly 110 hectares of wet ricefields and 9 hectares of ponds, and planted 10 hectares of industrial crops.

Rice Harvest Falls Short in North, May Exceed Plan in South

BK1212131888 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] As of 5 December, the northern provinces had completed harvesting the 10th-month rice crop which, as a whole, fell short of the planned output and was poorer than last year's. The northern mountain regions and some other localities such as Thai Binh, Hai Hung, Ha Bac, and Ha Son Binh obtained better yields, fulfilling or overfulfilling the planned norms, but still not measuring up to last year's 10th month crop. The northern provinces have sown 74,700 hectares of spring rice and plowed about 85 percent of the planned cultivated area. Some localities have been slow in growing rice seedlings.

Meanwhile, the southern provinces have reaped 181,200 hectares of 10th-month rice, or 12.1 percent of the cultivated area. The 10th-month rice crop harvest was fairly good in many localities of the Mekong River Delta, with yields reaching 40 quintals per hectare, raising the hope that the Mekong Delta provinces may fulfill or exceed their production plan in terms of both yield and output. The southern provinces have also planted 264,000 hectares of winter-spring rice, equivalent to 114.5 percent of the area put under crop during the corresponding period last year.

As of 5 December, all localities throughout the country had grown 271,600 hectares of winter and winter-spring subsidiary food crops, equivalent to 98 percent of the area cultivated in the corresponding period last year.

An Giang Achieves Record Grain Harvest
42090054b Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese 9 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] By 20 August 1988, the 100th birthday of Uncle Ton Duc Thang, An Giang Province achieved 1 million tons of grain for 1988, more than 90,000 tons (10 percent) over the same period in 1987. This is the highest volume of production of any year in the past 13 years.

Rice is a major crop in An Giang. This year, its peasants have sowed and planted 261,000 hectares of rice—504 hectares over 1987. The summer-autumn rice acreage, especially, has expanded with 92,350 hectares being sowed—13,000 hectares over the same period last year, including more than 10,000 hectares of reclaimed land. Farmers have applied synchronous intensive cultivation measures—complying with planting schedules, using new varieties, caring for the fields and dispensing fertilizer in accordance with regulations and technique. Taking advantage of loose soil from reclaimed land, those with investment capabilities and production experience have raised yields to more than 4 tons per hectare, with some places even exceeding 6 tons.

The An Giang CPV provincial committee has encouraged peasants with capital and experience in rice cultivation to apply for land allocation for reclamation while the provincial people's committee has guided its sectors and echelons to implement bolder policies toward peasants and agriculture, solving remaining flaws in land reform, adjusting agricultural production relationships to local realities, making more capital available for investment, giving attention to building a water conservancy network, adequately supplying production with provisions, improving management of production collectives and applying a rational pricing policy.

Peanut Export Difficulties, Strategies
42090053a Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese 31 Aug 88 p 1

[Excerpt] In 1988, the Agricultural Products Export-Import General Corp was ordered to purchase, collect and export podded and unpodded peanuts, totalling 44,000 tons (as converted to unpodded-peanut equivalent, equal to more than 20,000 tons of seeds). To enable it to do the job, the state has pledged a delivery of supplies (mainly composed of nitrate, phosphate and potash fertilizer). But as of 20 August 1988, the general corporation has received just enough supplies to ensure the purchase of 10,000 tons (as converted to unpodded-peanut equivalent), preventing it from buying more, although peanuts were in abundant supply in the localities. By the end of August, it was able to

deliver only 3,000 tons of peanut seeds to the Soviet Union with a promise for an additional 2,000 tons in September and October. Thus, peanuts export was much behind schedule.

To help the general corporation buy more, implementing the plan for exporting peanuts to socialist countries, the state has authorized it to sign up as export agent for the localities. The commission formula was warmly welcomed, but since export-import general corporations under ministerial and central management were in arrears on their debts, nearly all localities have insisted that upon receiving peanuts, the Agricultural Products Export-Import General Corporation should reciprocate with supplies (nitrate, phosphate and potash fertilizer), equal in value to 30 percent of the merchandise. The general corporation could not meet that requirement because no additional provisions have been sent in by the state, prompting localities to balk at signing contracts and releasing peanuts for pickup.

Realizing clearly that a major obstacle to implementing the peanuts export plan lies in a lack of supplies for underwriting purchases, the ministries of Agriculture and Food Industry have decided to allocate more supplies to the Agricultural Products Export-Import General Corporation. [passage omitted]

SOCIAL

New Magazine of Popularly Elected Agencies Debuts
BK1212140088 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] The monthly magazine NGUOI DAI BIEU NHAN DAN [The People's Deputy] has made its debut on the occasion the Fourth Session of the Eighth National Assembly. As the organ of the system of popularly elected agencies in Vietnam, NGUOI DAI BIEU NHAN DAN's role is to study and guide the dissemination of resolutions and decisions of the National Assembly and the Council of State, carry information about and promote exchanges of experience in activities between deputies and National Assembly organs, report on voters' questions, aspirations, and constructive suggestions, and introduce documents on the organization and activities of popularly elected organs in the world.

The first issue of the monthly has been published. The publication of NGUOI DAI BIEU NHAN DAN to replace THONG TIN QUOC HOI [National Assembly Bulletin], which was circulated within the National Assembly only, is a new signal in the process of democratization in our country in accordance with the spirit of the Sixth Party Congress Resolution.

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